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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Hospital cases highest since May 2020

Health commissioner sounds alarm about the unvaccinated

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

COVID-19 hospitalizations in Connecticut soared to their highest level since early May 2020 on Monday, signaling just how transmissible the omicron variant of

the virus is — and how vulnerable unvaccinated residents are to it. “The unvaccinated have reason to be scared,” Department of Public Health commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani warned on Monday during a press conference at Stamford Hospital. But for those who have been vaccinated and boosted, the virus often runs a mild course, she noted. Hospitalizations in Connecticut rose to 1,452 on Monday, an increase of 301 patients since

Thursday. Connecticut also reported a 21.5% daily test positivity rate on Monday, representing an all-time high since widespread testing began. “There is rampant community spread,” said Gov. Ned Lamont, who also appeared in Stamford. Given the current COVID-19 surge, Juthani urged mitigation measures like wearing face masks and staying at home as much as possible, including by teleworking. Yet when asked about whether

he would institute a statewide mask mandate, Lamont declined, saying that he believed Connecticut residents were “overwhelmingly” wearing masks. “I don’t want to put a lot of counter-pressures on and [have] rebellion and people fighting back against it,” he said. State Sen. Tony Hwang, R-Fairfield, who also spoke at the Stamford event, called for more widespread COVID-19 testing — both at-home rapid tests and

expanded PCR testing sites — in order to keep workers, teachers and students safe. Demand for testing has surged across the state during the end-of-year holidays. “It is absolutely essential for us to ramp up capacity,” he said. Lamont said he believed that the bottleneck in COVID-19 testing capacity would ease within a week or two. “We can’t have everybody rush

Turn to Virus, Page 2



Wethersfield employee Erica Teixeira distributes two of 1,300 at-home COVID-19 test kits Monday morning at a Wethersfield High School drive-thru site. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

Demand outweighs supply for test kits

Long lines form as communities hand out hundreds of thousands

By Don Stacom | Hartford Courant

After a frustrating holiday week-end of emergency emails, texts, traffic plans and impromptu staff schedules, Connecticut communities began hurriedly handing out crateloads of COVID-19 self-tests that disappeared in minutes. In Rocky Hill on Monday, residents who were eager — or nearly desperate — to get free at-home test kits lined up at dawn for a giveaway that didn’t start until 9 a.m. By 9:20, workers had handed out 625 kits — or more than 30 a minute. “I can’t imagine we’ll have any left over after today,” Mayor Lisa Marotta said Monday morning after standing in the cold to help distribute test kits to a long procession of drivers lined up at Elm



With a long line of cars extending down Wolcott Hill Road, a Wethersfield employee gives the OK for a resident to enter the drive-thru distribution site at Wethersfield High School on Monday.

Turn to Tests, Page 2

INSIDE: Hartford requiring that masks be worn while indoors this month. **Page 6**

Connecticut restaurants feeling déjà vu



Bartender Matt Schneider makes a cocktail at Max's Oyster Bar in West Hartford on Tuesday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Omicron presents an all-too-familiar struggle for state's eateries, bars

By Susan Dunne and Daniela Altamari
Hartford Courant

With COVID-19 positivity rates rising to the highest levels since the pandemic began, driven by the highly contagious but apparently milder omicron variant, Connecticut restaurateurs are bracing for a difficult winter, preserving consumer confidence and keeping doors open with a staff reduced by infection. “Everyone I know has it or knows

someone who has it,” said Mike Harden, owner of four Lobstercraft locations. “This is our off-season so we have a skeleton crew. Losing even one person is hard. And we lost one in West Hartford. She has to quarantine for five days and be off the schedule for seven.” In his coronavirus briefing last Monday, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that over the previous week, an average of 3,919 virus cases were reported daily, a seven-day positivity rate of 9.83%. This was the highest average since testing began in spring 2020, when the pandemic began.

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CORONAVIRUS IN SCHOOLS

Unions demand free tests and masks

Leaders want N95s for all in K-12 schools as they cope with surge

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

As COVID-19 slammed school districts across Connecticut Monday, a coalition of the state’s largest labor unions called on state leaders for more resources and to enforce several rigorous safety protocols in K-12 schools, including free testing, temperature screening students before entry, and mandated use of N95 masks. The coalition, comprised of the state’s largest labor unions representing over 60,000 public education employees in Connecticut, wants the state to provide, distribute and require N95 masks be worn by everyone in schools. Leaders are also calling for cost-free access to testing at schools, and to end the “unsuccessful practice” of requiring teachers to instruct both in class and to students who are learning remotely. Their demands come on a day when school districts wrestled with lean numbers among faculty and staff after the holiday break. Call-outs forced some schools to delay opening and others to cancel classes entirely. “Up to 60% of my members don’t have access to [N95] masks, and more than 70% have reported not having access to testing,” said Kate Dias, president of the Connecticut Education Association. “I think we can all agree that that’s not the work space we want to be in. That doesn’t feel safe, that doesn’t feel responsible.” On Monday, the Ansonia Public Schools announced that schools will be closed for the remainder of the week, with 25% of the district’s staff out with COVID-19. Enfield Superintendent Christopher Drezek was prompted to close his schools on Monday after 20% of bus drivers reported they’d be absent. In Hartford more than 11% of employees (393 out of 3,380) were absent, while about

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Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle on Page 7

The New York Times crossword puzzle appears on Page 7 in today’s paper. It did not run in Sunday’s paper because of a production problem.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Tests

from Page 1

Ridge Park.

Rocky Hill's emergency management staff had initially anticipated separate sessions over several days, but the Black Friday-volume of demand in the first hour crushed that idea: By 10:50 the town had given away its entire supply of 1,500.

The state's 169 towns each cobbled together their own way of handing out the estimated 426,000 test kits that arrived in Connecticut on New Year's Eve.

A handful of smaller towns pulled in volunteers or staff on overtime Sunday to give away their share at first-come, first-serve drive-up distributions.

Norwich, South Windsor, Wethersfield and many others waited until Monday, with some — such as Farmington and Southington — scheduling Monday night hours to reach commuters.

New Britain, Ellington, Avon, Bristol, Enfield, Manchester and others won't start until Tuesday.

Still others, including East Hartford, Middletown and Canton, concluded there just wasn't enough supply to justify a large-scale giveaway. Instead, they'll target the elderly and other vulnerable populations and deliver kits there.

"It is simply neither efficient nor equitable to distribute 3,500 test kits to 48,000 residents at a mass distribution site on a first-come, first-served basis," Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim said in a statement Monday afternoon.

Instead, city agencies and community groups will get kits to congregate living facilities providing specialized care, senior housing complexes, essential workforce staff and city firefighters, police and school staff.

"The kits are being distributed to maximize their effectiveness and to prevent residents from having to wait for hours in line, only to leave empty-handed," Florsheim said.

The demand for tests that's been building since a week before Christmas hasn't relented: Drive-up, no appointment test sites are routinely getting three- and four-hour long lines.

On Monday, a search on CVS and Walgreen's websites reported no available pharmacy tests for their 40 outlets closest to Farmington. And drug stores continue selling out of at-home kits nearly as soon as they're put on shelves.

All of that meant the giveaways

of state-supplied at-home kits on Monday were packed with lined-up residents.

"People in the cars were telling me they thought they'd been exposed over the holidays. Then there are people calling me saying they need to be tested but there just isn't any way to get into a testing site any time soon," Marotta said.

In Wethersfield, all 1,300 kits were handed out within 90 minutes Monday morning. A long line of cars snaked along streets near Wethersfield High School, where town workers handed out kits.

A few drivers complained of motorists cutting into the line, but the event went peacefully.

In New Britain, about 50 city workers and volunteers will run a distribution in the New Britain Stadium parking lot Tuesday to hand out about 4,500 test kits.

Unlike communities that had to call in department heads and senior staff during the holiday weekend to arrange distributions over the weekend or Monday, New Britain had been targeting a Tuesday giveaway since early last week.

"We didn't have to have staff working, we didn't have to spend overtime — our plans weren't impacted," said Mayor Erin Stewart, who announced last week that she wouldn't try to distribute tests before the New Year's weekend.

Gov Ned Lamont's administration had initially promised 500,000 kits — each containing two tests — would be available by the middle of last week. The goal was to get them out to residents before the holiday weekend of travel and socializing, so that about a third of the state could undergo a test before going back to work or school Monday.

But the plan fell through. The state couldn't have tests on hand until New Year's Eve morning, and even then ended up 70,000 to 100,000 short of its target number.

That left mayors and first selectmen to abruptly postpone the large-scale distributions they'd planned; residents who didn't get that word were frustrated when they showed up at empty parking lots.

Stewart said Monday that she's satisfied with her decision to wait until Tuesday. She said that even early last week, she was reluctant to schedule a giveaway of tests that she hadn't even seen yet. Tuesday was the soonest date possible, since the New Britain Stadium parking lot is empty then — but used all day Monday for COVID-19 no-appointment testing.

But though the city didn't have to bring in union staff for the holiday weekend, the last-minute logistics created some pressure, she said.

"We had police measuring the parking lot over the weekend to map out where to put the lanes, we had people writing a traffic plan," she said.

The state government kept changing the logistics so late on Friday that Stewart, Fire Chief Raul Ortiz and Lt. Josh Stoddard, the fire department's shift commander, had to do freight transportation on New Year's Eve night.

"The state messed this up from the beginning by promising something they couldn't deliver on, and it kept being frustrating," she said.

The state emergency management office told New Britain on Friday that it could pick up its share of test kits — about 5,500 — after the weekend. But Friday afternoon, a new message arrived saying the city would have to get its supply at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

The city's shipment was a small part of the statewide allotment of tests delivered to the Siracusa warehouse in New Britain, where communities from around Connecticut had to pick up there shares.

"Chief Ortiz and I went in our city vehicles at 8:45 that night to the Siracusa warehouse — the National Guard was looking bleary-eyed, driving fork lifts around trying to get the last pallets out," she said.

With Lt. Stoddard, they loaded up their SUVs and got the National Guard to agree to wait until firefighters could arrive with a box truck Saturday morning to get the rest.

"That's how we spent New Year's Eve, loading test kits," she said. "We weren't the only ones. We saw the emergency management director from Brookfield there at 9, getting his town's kits.

New Britain will set aside 1,000 kits for residents of senior housing complexes and for the disabled, and will hand out the rest on Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. at New Britain Stadium.

"We'll have four lanes, we'll have the police motorcade unit on motorcycles ready to go up and down the line to get information to drivers," Stewart said. "We'll have our police Explorers, we'll have the cadets from the academy. We'll have our public health nurses handing the kits out."

As with all other towns, New Britain will require proof of residency.

"And we're going to have a strict one-per-car limit. We want to get these to as many households as we can," she said.

Virus

from Page 1

the gate for the tests at the exact same time," he said. "I just urge a little bit of common sense here."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 23,678 new COVID-19 cases Monday out of 110,017 tests administered, for a daily positivity rate of 21.5%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 19.53%, by far the highest it has been at any time over the past 18 months.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut has 1,452 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up 301 since Thursday and the most the state has seen since May 5, 2020 — less than two months into the start of the pandemic.

Of the patients hospitalized with COVID-19, 999 (68.8%) are not fully vaccinated, according to the state.

The surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations — which have nearly quadrupled since early December — is showing no signs of abating, Juthani said.

"I am very concerned," she said. "I am very concerned about our hospital staff, I am concerned about nurses and doctors that have been working on the front lines."

At Stamford Hospital, about 140 of 3,700 employees are currently out due to COVID-19, according to Kathleen Silard, Stamford Health's president and chief executive officer. She noted that most have mild illnesses and are returning to work fairly quickly, and that the health system has been able to find replacement workers.

Hartford HealthCare chief clinical officer Dr. Ajay Kumar said during a press call Monday that he did not know the exact number of staff out due to COVID-19, but stressed that none of the health system's services have been significantly affected due to staffing issues or shortages.

"Right now, we are doing OK," he said.

Still, Hartford HealthCare announced changes to its visitation policy Monday, stipulating that each patient can only have one visitor per day during normal visiting hours. Exceptions would be made for patients with disabilities, those in labor and delivery areas, and under other circumstances, including compassionate visitation at end-of-life.

Deaths

The 83 deaths Connecticut reported Thursday bring its total during the pandemic to 9,160.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has now recorded 826,678 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Monday, 88.6% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 74.6% of all residents and 83.6% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 41.6% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

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LOTTERY

Monday, Jan. 3

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
9 2 1 WB: 9	1 8 6 0 WB: 4

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SUNDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT	PLAY4 NIGHT
0 3 1 WB: 6	3 2 2 0 WB: 0

CASH 5

2 6 8 23 27

LUCKY FOR LIFE

3 5 12 36 40 LB: 1

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.8 million

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot:


\$244 million

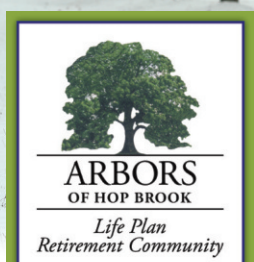
Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot:

\$540 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

Man gets 4 years in prison for thefts, police chase

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A young, chronic car thief who led a police chase across two states, injuring at least one other driver in multiple crashes, was sentenced to four years in prison Monday in federal court.

Christopher Mulkern, 22, of Stratford had been stealing high-end cars since he was 18. With the exception of the stiff sentences he has been given, the account by prosecutors of Mulkern's thefts and police pursuits is typical of a wave of thefts that has provoked debate in the courts and the legislature about youth crime and juvenile justice reform in Connecticut and elsewhere.

The U.S. Attorney's office said Mulkern, his friends and associates, have engaged for years in what they call "car-checking," "jigging," and "jugging" — prowling affluent beach communities, usually, after midnight, for luxury cars in which the

owners have left, keys, fobs and valuables.

In some cases, according to information presented in court, Mulkern and other thieves find more cars in a single night than they are able to drive away, so they take the key fobs and plot locations on cellphone map applications in order to return. Once they have the cars, prosecutors said the thieves "sell, trade or pawn" anything of value found in the cars, and then rent or sell the cars to others for use in new crimes.

"The recent explosion of car thefts dominates Connecticut news," federal prosecutors wrote in a memo describing the phenomenon of youth car theft. "While property theft, in and of itself, is concerning, it is what frequently accompanies the thefts that is truly disturbing: hit-and-run injuries and deaths; homeowners being shot at; high-speed pursuits with police; and gang-related violence using

stolen vehicles. These are serious crimes with dangerous and potential deadly outcomes."

Mulkern was sentenced Monday by U.S. District Judge Kari A. Dooley for interstate transportation of a stolen car and a succession of police pursuits that began in Westport on Dec. 1, 2020 and went east to West-erly, R.I., before returning to Bridgeport, where it ended in another theft and two collisions, one of which flipped a passing automobile and injured the driver.

When he was charged with federal crimes for the Dec. 1 offenses, Mulkern was on state probation for an earlier car theft and had five similar or related cases pending against him in Stratford, Westport and Darien. Evidence seized during his arrest with an associate linked him to thefts from Mystic to Wappinger's Falls, N.Y. According to the prosecution and Mulkern's lawyer, Cody Guarnieri, he has spent

much of the time since turning 18 in jail.

In a memo to the court asking for leniency, Guarnieri said Mulkern began stealing cars and abusing drugs as the result of an horrific childhood; his mother is drug dependent, he was abandoned by his father and watched his stepfather abuse others in his family.

According to court filings, some time during the afternoon of Dec. 1, 2020, Mulkern and associate Edwin Cordero stole a 2018 Porsche Panamera from a driveway in Westport. The owner had left her keys, credit cards, a diamond bracelet and remote control garage door opener in the car. The owner notified the local police department, which broadcast the missing Porsche over a police computer network.

Later in the day, authorities said the two decided to take a ride in the Porsche to the Rhode Island beaches. Shortly after midnight the

next morning, a Westerly police officer spotted the Porsche speeding through town but couldn't catch it. A second officer saw it blowing through stoplights and tried and failed to stop it. The same thing happened across the border in Stonington, where an officer clocked the Porsche at 86 mph on Route 1 before speeding onto a highway on-ramp.

The Porsche showed up in Milford at about 4 a.m., when a police officer said he saw the occupants trying to steal a 2018 Dodge Challenger on Sea Flower Road. The Porsche struck a parked Volkswagen while fleeing.

At 7 p.m., the police in Stratford tried to box in and stop the Porsche after a traffic camera spotted it on Stratford Avenue. Police said Mulkern, who was driving, escaped by ramming the car in front of him and driving down a sidewalk. They said Mulkern raced through a red light into an intersection, where he struck and rolled

over another car, sending the driver to the hospital.

The collision caused the hood of the Porsche to pop up, obscuring Mulkern's view. The police and prosecutors said Mulkern managed to drive onto I-95, in spite of the damage, and exit in Bridgeport. Federal authorities said Mulkern stopped on Gregory Street, where he and Cordero tried, but failed, to take off in a stolen Audi they had stashed nearby.

"Mr. Mulkern and Mr. Cordero opened the Audi doors with Mr. Mulkern attempting to get into the driver's seat and Mr. Cordero getting in the front passenger seat," prosecutors wrote in a memo filed with the court. "Mr. Mulkern grabbed onto the steering wheel and attempted to press the ignition button, however a Stratford officer deployed his department-issued Taser on Mr. Mulkern. Mr. Mulkern was then arrested."

Restaurants

from Page 1

In addition, hospitalization levels are at their highest since January 2021, and demand for testing has spiked.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, said the rise in cases is due to "waning immunity; it's due to colder weather, people cohorting indoors; it's due to social behaviors where people are gathering because they're just tired, they're just fatigued from COVID."

Members of the dining industry, which has suffered a catastrophic downturn since March 2020, feel an unsettling sense of déjà vu, with a new virus spike putting another crimp in their longed-for recovery.

"We had our whole crew tested instead of just the people [the infected worker] may have been in contact with. We put everyone back to work after they tested negative. So we are up and running," Harden said. "We've had to double down on gloves and hand washing, and everyone is in masks."

Gina Luari, who owns three The Place 2 Be locations in Hartford and West Hartford, said, "Right now more and more employees are getting sick." She said she wants all her workers to get tested. It's proving to be a difficult task.

"The waits to get tested are taking days now instead of hours, so it's depleting our workforce by the day," Luari said. "We made the decision this morning to implement a company-wide mask order for our employees even though the towns that we're in don't require it, just to be safe and slow down any transmission but to also give our customers confidence."

Pointing to the infection upsurge, Luari is anticipating a difficult winter.

"I think going into January, customer confidence will once again begin to drastically decline and we're going to see less and less people going out, especially since the outdoor dining is not an option for us at two out of three locations," she said.

Scott Smith, COO of Max Restaurant Group, which has eight locations in the



Restaurant staff wear masks at Max's Oyster Bar in West Hartford. Scott Smith, chief operating officer of Max Restaurant Group, which has eight locations in the Hartford area, said customer confidence is not an issue amid the omicron surge but keeping staff healthy has presented some challenges. JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Hartford area, said customer confidence is not an issue — "We have plenty of reservations and demand for New Year's Eve" — but keeping staff healthy has presented some challenges.

"We have a few restaurants that have been hit hard, and those clusters seemed to have come from social gatherings outside of work," Smith said. "We put all of our employees back in masks 10 days ago, and it seems to have stopped the spread in the restaurants. We have also been extremely diligent at keeping people out of the restaurant that have any symptoms."

Perkatory Coffee Roasters, which has four locations, announced on Facebook on Christmas Day that it had to temporarily close its Middletown, Branford and West Hartford stores.

"This new variant is spreading quickly and we have had multiple exposures in these cafes, so we will not be reopening until all our staff is tested," the shop announced online. "Going forward, all of the Perkatory crew will be masked, and customers are encouraged to do the same. This is a huge bummer, and we're working as quickly as we can to reopen, safely."



Restaurant staff wear masks at Max's Oyster Bar in West Hartford.

By Tuesday morning, the shop posted that Middletown, Southington and Branford were open for business, with West Hartford opening Wednesday.

Michael McDonald, who owns Stix and Stones Cafe and floral shop in Storrs, has dodged the omicron surge so far. His florist was out earlier in December, sidelined by the delta variant. But given the path omicron is tearing

through his circle, he is bracing for more cases.

"It's hitting everybody," McDonald said. "My cousin has it right now. His whole family is vaccinated and boosted, and two of them got it."

"This is going through and hitting everybody, whether you're vaccinated or not. But at least it's mild in most cases so I guess it's OK."

Walden St. Juste, who

opened Bro's Dough in Hartford five months into the pandemic, said he's had two of his seven employees fall ill with the virus in recent days.

"The first couple of waves we were good, but this time it's catching up to us," St. Juste said. His restaurant serves up thin-crust pizzas and wraps to go, so anxiety about in-person dining has not hurt business.

"The thing that's chal-

lenging now is dealing with employees who are getting COVID or they've been in contact with someone who has COVID," St. Juste said. "Some people have had to work double shifts because other people aren't able to come in because of COVID."

The relentlessness of the pandemic has hurt restaurants in other ways. St. Juste said he had hoped to begin dining room service by now, but the seemingly never-ending waves of variants have forced him to put off those plans. "COVID is stopping a lot of things for us," he said. "It crushes our goals every time."

Deivone Tanksley, owner of My Wife Didn't Cook in New Britain, said he, too, is "waiting for this to pass over so we can grow our business again."

Tanksley said so far he has managed, but "it's definitely been tough."

Still, he is grateful, given the waves of closures that have hit the restaurant industry. "It's me and my wife and a few staff plugging away," Tanksley said. "We've managed to hold on."

Kurt Kruczek owns two restaurants in Farmington, the upscale Fork and Fire and Naples Pizza and employs a total of about 55 people. Kruczek said he has not seen the type of sharp drop-off in business that occurred during the early weeks of the pandemic.

"Maybe that's because they don't think omicron is as powerful, or maybe they're just COVID-tired," he said.

But he has seen a jump in takeout orders in the past week, as diners opt to hunker down at home instead of dining out. Harden, of Lobstercraft, said he also has seen an uptick in delivery and pickup.

"There are less people who want to stick around. They're just shifting to taking it home or taking it to work," Harden said. "We do a big lunch business from the businesses around West Hartford. That's turned into a lot of deliveries. That's OK. We're ready for that."

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Schools

from Page 1

8% of teachers and about 12% of students missed school in Glastonbury.

"I anticipate that at any given moment, either one building or the entire district won't make it," said Enfield Superintendent Christopher Drezek. "We're not immune to the things that happen around the country."

With faculty and staff nervous over workplace safety amid record-high levels of COVID-19, the coalition wants all students to be screened for high body temperatures before entering the school.

Stacie Harris Byrdson, president of AFSCME Local 3194, said the temperature

screening can help detect symptoms among nonverbal students, or students with disabilities who cannot wear masks.

The coalition also wants cost-free access to testing, N95 masks and vaccinations available on school grounds. While masks are required in schools, they aren't always N95 masks. The N95 masks are viewed by public health experts to be more effective than single-layer cloth masks at preventing the transmission of the coronavirus.

Gov. Ned Lamont has insisted the state is "scouring the globe" for more testing kits for residents and for school districts, even after an agreement to obtain a shipment 500,000 test kits fell through amid a surge in demand. The state has deliv-

ered 3.2 million N35 masks to municipalities since last Friday.

"We remain committed to keeping schools open and safe for all students, faculty and staff," said Max Reiss, spokesman for Lamont.

Glastonbury Public Schools is scheduled to pick up 2,500 test kits on Tuesday, according to Dr. Alan B. Bookman, superintendent of schools. He hopes it'll be enough to get through a difficult January.

"It sounds like we're getting a great deal of tests, but when you have a school system of 6,000 kids, you can go through tests pretty quickly like that," Brookman said.

The Hartford Public Schools received 5,000 of the masks from the state on Sunday, according to

a district spokesperson, and distributed them on Monday.

The union coalition wants these masks to be mandated within schools for students, faculty and staff who are able to wear them.

"We really don't know our schools are safe unless we have testing and specific, strict safety protocols like masks in place," said Mary Yordon, president of the Norwalk Federation of Teachers and a vice president with the American Federation of Teachers in Connecticut.

"If we don't have masks, if we don't have the elements in place, then we need to come up with another plan," Yordon said.

Once in classes, educators also want to see changes to the way absences among

both students and faculty are handled.

They call for an end to "the unsuccessful practice" of dual teaching, or the practice where teachers instruct both in-person students and those participating virtually.

"[A teacher] cannot be present in multiple places at the same time," Yordon said.

Coalition leaders said the updated school guidance from the state Department of Public Health, which reduced the quarantine period to five days, will help students and staff return to the classroom more quickly.

But staff absentees are still prevalent, and in some cases debilitating. Joseph DiBacco, superintendent of Ansonia Public Schools, wrote in a letter to families

that exposure to COVID-19 had knocked out one quarter of the district's staff.

The district attempted to open "with considerable staffing issues," but DiBacco was prompted to close schools through Friday. The days will be made up at the end of the school year, he said, because Connecticut does not allow remote learning as an alternative to in-person.

Both Stratford and Stonington also closed schools Monday and Tuesday due to the COVID-19 surge. New Haven Public Schools scraped by with 18% of bus drivers calling out sick, with help from drivers in neighboring districts.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

FDA allows boosters for more teens

Recommendation covers Pfizer dose for youths 12 to 15

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

The U.S. is expanding COVID-19 boosters as it confronts the omicron surge, with the Food and Drug Administration allowing extra Pfizer shots for children as young as 12. Boosters already are recommended for everyone 16 and older, and federal regulators on Monday decided they're also warranted for 12- to 15-year-olds once enough time has passed since their last dose. But the move, coming as classes restart after the holidays, isn't the final step. A panel to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to decide later this week whether to recommend boosters for the younger teens with a final decision by Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC's director.

The FDA also said everyone 12 and older who's eligible for a Pfizer booster can get one as early as five months after their last dose rather than six months. FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said even though serious illness is uncommon in younger teens, a booster will help them avoid that risk — while also helping reduce the spread of omicron or any other coronavirus mutant. "Hopefully, this will be not just a call for people to go get their booster shot," but for the tens of millions of unvaccinated Americans to rethink that choice, Marks said. "It's not too late to start to get vaccinated."



Cale Haynes, 12, receives a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine last August at Carey Junior High School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. **RACHEL WOOLF/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

The FDA based its latest booster decision largely on real-world data from Israel that found no new safety concerns when 6,300 12- to 15-year-olds got a Pfizer booster five months after their second dose. Likewise, the FDA said even more data from Israel showed no problems with giving anyone eligible for a Pfizer booster that extra dose a month sooner than the six months that until now has been U.S. policy. The chief safety question for younger teens is a rare side effect called myocarditis, a type of heart inflammation seen mostly in younger men and teen boys

who get either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. The vast majority of cases are mild — far milder than the heart inflammation caused by COVID-19 — and they seem to peak in older teens, the 16- and 17-year-olds. Marks said the side effect occurs in about 1 in 10,000 men and boys ages 16 to 30 after their second shot — but that a third dose appears less risky, by about a third. That's probably because more time has passed before the booster than between the first two shots, he said. While the FDA didn't consult its independent scientific advisers before making that decision, the

CDC's own advisory panel is sure to closely weigh how much benefit this age group is likely to get before backing the extra shot. Vaccines still offer strong protection against serious illness from any type of COVID-19. But health authorities are urging everyone who's eligible to get a booster dose for their best chance at avoiding milder breakthrough infections from the highly contagious omicron mutant. Children tend to suffer less serious illness from COVID-19 than adults. But child hospitalizations are rising during the omicron wave — most of them unvac-

inated. Pediatrician and global health expert Dr. Philip Landrigan of Boston College welcomed the FDA's decisions, but stressed that the main need is to get the unvaccinated their first shots. "It is among unvaccinated people that most of the severe illness and death from COVID will occur in coming weeks," he said in an email. "Many thousands of lives could be saved if people could persuade themselves to get vaccinated." The vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech is the only U.S. option for children of any age.

About 13.5 million 12- to 17-year-olds — just over half that age group — have received two Pfizer shots, according to the CDC. For families hoping to keep their children as protected as possible, the booster age limit raised questions. The older teens, 16- and 17-year-olds, became eligible for boosters in early December. But original vaccinations opened for the younger teens, those 12 to 15, back in May. That means those first in line in the spring, potentially millions, are about as many months past their last dose as the older teens. As for even younger children, kid-size doses for 5- to 11-year-olds rolled out more recently, in November — and experts say healthy youngsters should be protected after their second dose for a while. But the FDA also said Monday that if children that young have severely weakened immune systems, they will be allowed a third dose 28 days after their second. That's the same third-dose timing already recommended for immune-compromised teens and adults. Pfizer is studying its vaccine, in even smaller doses, for children younger than 5. What about timing of boosters for adults who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines? The FDA said it didn't have any new data from Moderna to back a timing change and people who'd already had two Moderna shots should continue to wait six months for a booster. As for people who originally got the single-dose J&J shot, the U.S. already recommends another dose of any vaccine two months later.

Attacks highlight reach of Iranian-allied militias

Strikes mark 2nd anniversary of US killing of general

By Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Yemen's Houthi rebels seized a ship in the Red Sea, armed drones targeted Baghdad's international airport and hackers hit a major Israeli newspaper Monday — a string of assaults that showed the reach of Iran-allied militias on the second anniversary of America's killing of a top Iranian general. All three coincided with a massive memorial in Tehran for Qassem Soleimani, the general killed by a U.S. drone strike in 2020 in Iraq. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi demanded former President Donald Trump be "prosecuted and killed." "If not, I'm telling all American leaders, don't doubt that the hand of revenge will come out of the sleeves of ummah," Raisi said, referring to the worldwide community of Muslims. Monday's events highlight tensions in the Middle East, which has been roiled by Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw

America from a deal aimed at limiting Tehran's nuclear program. As talks continue in Vienna to try to resuscitate the accord, Iran remains able to apply pressure from outside of the negotiations even as it is squeezed by sanctions and a shadow war with Israel. The taking of the Emirati ship Rwabee marks the latest assault in the Red Sea, a crucial route for international trade and energy shipments. The Iranian-backed Houthis acknowledged the seizure off the coast of Hodeida, a long-contested prize of the grinding war in Yemen between the rebels and a Saudi-led coalition that includes the United Arab Emirates. First word of the Rwabee's seizure came from the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which only said an attack targeted an unnamed vessel around midnight. The coordinates it offered corresponded to the Rwabee, which has rarely given its location via tracking data in recent months unlike most commercial traffic in the region, according to the website MarineTraffic.com. A statement from the Saudi-led coalition, carried by state media in the king-

dom, acknowledged the attack hours later, saying the Houthis had committed an act of "armed piracy" involving the vessel. The coalition asserted the ship carried medical equipment from a dismantled Saudi field hospital in the distant island of Socotra, without offering evidence. "The militia must promptly release the ship or the coalition forces will undertake all necessary measures and procedures to handle this violation, including the use of force if necessary," Brig. Gen. Turki al-Malki said in a statement. The Houthis later aired footage from the Rwabee on their Al-Masirah satellite news channel. It showed military-style inflatable rafts, trucks and other vehicles on the vessel, a landing craft that lowers a ramp to allow equipment to roll on and off. One brief clip showed what appeared to be a collection of rifles inside a container. "It is completely obvious today that the information that this ship was carrying a civilian field hospital is not correct," said Yahia Sarei, a Houthi military spokesman. "This is clearly military equipment." Saudi state television alleged the Houthis trans-



A security official inspects the wreckage of a drone Monday at Baghdad airport in Iraq. Two armed drones were shot down, a U.S.-led coalition official said, an attack that coincides with the anniversary of the 2020 U.S. killing of a top Iranian general. **INTERNATIONAL COALITION**

ferred the weapons onto the ship. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the hacking of the Jerusalem Post's website. The hackers replaced the Post's homepage with an image depicting a missile coming from a fist bearing a ring long associated with Soleimani. The image also depicted an exploding target used during a recent Iranian military drill that was designed to look like the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near the Israeli city

of Dimona. The facility is home to decades-old underground laboratories that reprocess spent rods from a nuclear reactor to obtain weapons-grade plutonium for Israel's nuclear bomb program. Under its policy of nuclear ambiguity, Israel neither confirms nor denies having atomic weapons. The English-language newspaper acknowledged being a target of hackers and later restored its site. The hack came after Israel's former military intelli-

gence chief in late December publicly acknowledged his country was involved in Soleimani's killing. The U.S. drone killed the general as he was leaving Baghdad's international airport. In Iraq on Monday, troops shot down two so-called suicide drones at that same airport, American and Iraqi officials said. No group claimed the attack, though one of the drones' wings had the words "Soleimani's revenge" painted on it in Arabic. No injuries or damage were reported.



Sen. Chuck Schumer says filibuster rules changes will get a vote by Jan. 17. **AP 2021**

Schumer says Senate to vote on filibuster rules changes

By Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Days before the anniversary of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the Senate will vote on filibuster rules changes to advance stalled voting legislation that Democrats say is needed to protect democracy. In a letter Monday to colleagues, Schumer, D-N.Y., said the Senate "must evolve" and will "debate and

consider" the rules changes by Jan. 17, on or before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as the Democrats seek to overcome Republican opposition to their elections law package. "Let me be clear: January 6th was a symptom of a broader illness — an effort to delegitimize our election process," Schumer wrote, "and the Senate must advance systemic democracy reforms to repair our republic or else the events of that day will not be an aber-

ration — they will be the new norm." The election and voting rights package has been stalled in the evenly split 50-50 Senate, blocked by a GOP-led filibuster and leaving Democrats unable to mount the 60-vote threshold needed to advance it toward passage. Democrats have been unable to agree among themselves over potential changes to the Senate rules to reduce the 60-vote hurdle, despite months of

private negotiations. Two Democratic holdouts — Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona — have tried to warn their party off changes to the Senate rules. Manchin and Sinema have said that if and when Republicans take majority control of the chamber, they could use the lower voting threshold to advance bills Democrats oppose. President Joe Biden has waded cautiously into the debate — a former senator

who largely stands by existing rules but is also under enormous political pressure to break the logjam on the voting legislation. How the Senate rules would be changed remains under discussion. Voting rights advocates warn that Republican-led states are passing election legislation and trying to install elections officials loyal to former President Donald Trump in ways that could subvert future elections.

WORLD & NATION



Then-President Trump, daughter Ivanka Trump and son Donald Trump Jr. make their way to Air Force One last January. The three have been subpoenaed. **MANDEL NGAN/GETTY-AFP**

NY prosecutor subpoenas Trump, 2 children in probe

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The office of New York’s attorney general confirmed for the first time Monday that it had subpoenaed former President Donald Trump and his two eldest children, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr., demanding their testimony in an investigation into the family’s business practices.

In a court filing, lawyers for Attorney General Letitia James said they are seeking the Trumps’ testimony and documents as part of a yearslong civil probe involving matters including “the valuation of properties owned or controlled” by Trump and his company.

Monday’s filing was the first public disclosure that investigators scrutinizing the former president’s dealings were also seeking information from Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., both who have been executives in his family’s Trump Organization.

James, a Democrat, has spent more than two years looking at whether the Trump Organization misled banks or tax officials about

the value of assets — inflating them to gain favorable loan terms or minimizing them to reap tax savings.

The Trumps have indicated they will fight the subpoenas and are expected to file court papers through their lawyers seeking to have them thrown out. A similar fight played out last year after James’ office subpoenaed the testimony of Trump son Eric Trump.

Trump sued James in federal court last month, seeking to put an end to her investigation. Trump, in the lawsuit, claimed that James had violated his constitutional rights in a “thinly-veiled effort to publicly malign Trump and his associates.”

A state court judge who handled that dispute agreed Monday to entertain arguments over the recent subpoenas.

Messages seeking comment were left with Trumps’ lawyers and the Trump Organization.

In the past, the Republican ex-president has decried James’ investigation as part of a “witch hunt” along with a parallel criminal probe being run by the Manhattan district

attorney’s office.

James’ office went to court last year to enforce a subpoena on Eric Trump, a Trump Organization executive, and a judge forced him to testify after his lawyers canceled a previously scheduled deposition.

The same judge, Arthur Engoron, has ruled in the past to enforce subpoenas stemming from the Trump probe, including forcing Trump’s company and a law firm it hired to turn over records related to a Trump-owned estate north of Manhattan.

Although the civil investigation is separate from the district attorney’s criminal investigation, James’ office has been involved in both.

Last year, then-District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. gained access to the real estate mogul’s tax records after a multiyear fight that twice went to the U.S. Supreme Court. He also brought tax fraud charges in July against the Trump Organization and CFO Allen Weisselberg. He pleaded not guilty to charges alleging he and the company evaded taxes on fringe benefits paid to executives.

Former CEO found guilty of fraud and conspiracy

By Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Former Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes was convicted on four counts of fraud and conspiracy Monday, ending a lengthy trial that has captivated Silicon Valley.

The jury of eight men and four women took 50 hours to reach a verdict, convicting her of three counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. She was found not guilty on four other counts. On the three remaining charges, the jury was deadlocked.

Each count carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, terms that are likely to be served concurrently. Holmes is expected to appeal. She could now face up to 20 years in prison.

The former entrepreneur, who had bowed her head several times before the jury was polled by the judge, remained seated and expressed no visible emotion as the verdicts were read.

Her partner, Billy Evans, showed agitation in earlier moments but appeared



Elizabeth Holmes, center, leaves court earlier Monday with her partner, Billy Evans, and her parents. **NICK OTTO/GETTY-AFP**

calm during the verdict reading.

After the judge left the courtroom to meet with jurors individually, Holmes got up to hug her partner and her parents before leaving with her lawyers.

The verdict stands out for its rarity.

Few technology executives are charged with fraud and even fewer are convicted.

If sentenced to prison,

Holmes would be the most notable female executive to serve time since Martha Stewart did in 2004 after lying to investigators about a stock sale.

And Theranos, which dissolved in 2018, is likely to stand as a warning to other Silicon Valley startups that stretch the truth to score funding and business deals.

The New York Times contributed.



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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

City of Hartford reinstates mask mandate

Plans to give out 9,000 at-home test kits, masks

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

The city of Hartford will again require people to wear masks while indoors this month as COVID-19 cases surge due to the omicron variant, the city said late Monday morning.

The mask mandate was announced at the same time the capital city unveiled its plan to distribute at-home tests and masks.

“We all hope that the omicron surge will soon peak and that we’ll see case rates fall, but with the current numbers, we’ve got to do whatever we can, even at the margins,” said Mayor Luke Bronin said. “In putting this indoor mask requirement back in place right now, we’re thinking first and foremost about those frontline workers who have no choice but to interact with the public at large, and who deserve whatever additional protection we can give them.”

The mandate is only for the month of January. There are exceptions for people who have

relevant medical conditions, those under 2, people who are eating or drinking and, in some cases, those in private offices.

Bronin also announced that, after giving out 8,000 at-home test kits last week, the city will give out 9,000 more, starting Monday. In addition, Hartford will give away thousands of N95 and KN95 masks. The kits will be delivered to targeted groups based on need.

“We received approximately 9,000 new at-home test kits from the state on Sunday, and following our public distribution of 8,000 test kits last week, our priority right

now is to support Hartford Public Schools teaching staff, along with staff and students at City of Hartford Early Learning Centers and the Family Child Care Network,” Bronin said.

The city also will provide kits to the Hartford Housing Authority for distribution to staff and each of their households, to those living in elderly housing and to city employees who provide essential, in-person public services, he said, “to help ensure continuity of government services during the surge.”

The city laid out its allocation plan for the at-home test kits,

which includes:

- 3,500 kits for staff of the Hartford Public Schools, Early Learning Centers, and the Hartford Family Child Care Network;
- 2,200 kits for staff and residents of the Hartford Housing Authority and of elderly assisted living facilities and housing developments with home-bound seniors;
- 2,750 kits for city employees providing essential in-person public services, and for Hartford Public Library employees;
- 500 kits for the staff and guests

Turn to Masks, Page 7

Lawmakers, local officials press Lamont for statewide mask rule

Governor indicates he remains hesitant to institute another edict

By Daniela Altamari
Hartford Courant

With COVID-19 cases and hospitalization hitting record levels, some Democratic state lawmakers and local officials are pressing Gov. Ned Lamont to reinstate a statewide indoor mask mandate regardless of vaccination status.

State Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw, who is a Democrat like Lamont, said she has been contacted by dozens of constituents over the past few days.

“I started getting requests for masking indoors as early as Dec. 20,” said Kavros DeGraw, whose district includes Avon and Canton. “People were starting to get nervous.” She said she conveyed those concerns to Lamont’s office.

Martin Looney, a New Haven Democrat and president pro tempore of the Connecticut Senate, said he, too, would welcome a statewide mask mandate.

since Friday 3,197,606 mask
“The more that can be done on a statewide level, the less conflicting standards there will be,” Looney said. “This is something where we need as much uniformity as possible and where the state needs to take the lead. You can’t have 169 different standards.”

“Everyone,” Looney added, “should wear a mask everywhere indoors, except inside your own home.”

Lamont has steadfastly resisted calls for a masking mandate for all, even as Connecticut’s daily COVID-19 test positivity rate climbed to 21.5% and several municipalities, including Stamford and Hartford, brought back the requirement.

Public health officials say N95 masks—along with vaccines and booster shots—are one of the best ways to stop the spread of the virus, even the highly contagious omicron variant that’s driving the current spike in cases in Connecticut.

Since last Friday the Lamont administration has distributed 3.2 million masks to municipalities, schools and first responders.

Indoor masking rules were quickly put in place in the early days of the pandemic. But over the



Gov. Ned Lamont announces the arrival of 426,000 at-home COVID-19 tests and N95 masks at the state commodities warehouse in New Britain on Friday. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

past two years, face-coverings, like vaccines, have become a political flash point; mask requirements are viewed by some as a symbol of government encroachment into the lives of citizens and some Connecticut Republicans have rebelled against mask rules.

Asked about masking at a press conference in Stamford on Monday, Lamont suggested he is wary of instituting another edict requiring unvaccinated people wear face coverings indoors because of the potential pushback.

“I don’t want to put a lot of counter-pressures on and rebellion and people fighting back against it,” Lamont said. “I prefer that everybody wear the mask when you’re indoors. We’re getting N95 masks available to anybody, no questions asked. I think we’re on the right track right now.”

Both Lamont and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani have emphasized the importance of masking. Lamont said he believed Connecticut residents were “overwhelmingly” wearing masks.

Kavros DeGraw, who serves on the legislature’s public health committee, said some of her constituents are frustrated by the lack of statewide guidance on masking at a time when test kits remain in short supply and anxiety about a lack of remote options for school is rising.

“At this point, we are tired of this pandemic,” she said. “We are tired of testing, we are tired of wearing masks but we can’t let our guard down just yet. To me this is not political, this is a public health situation that has to be mitigated.”

Eight states — California, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington — plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico require masks in indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status. Connecticut requires the unvaccinated to wear masks indoors, though the order does not specify whether they need a booster shot.

Municipalities have the authority to set their own masking rules and several have instituted their own mandates, including the city of Hartford, which on Monday began requiring masks in all indoor public places for at least the month of January.

But some local leaders say that approach leads to confusion and hurts the vulnerable.

“At present we have a patchwork of regulations, leaving Connecticut’s mayors, local public health departments and individual school districts to grapple with this unprecedented global health crisis,” said Michelle Parente, a Democratic member of the Milford Board of Aldermen.

“Epidemiologists have indicated that the virus is spreading

in public environments such as grocery stores, shopping malls and other retail establishments, due to asymptomatic folks not having on masks. Public health experts in our state are clearly and urgently appealing to the governor that an indoor mask mandate will curb the spread of omicron. I hope that Governor Lamont, who I support, will listen to these experts and reinstate a temporary, common sense and enforceable statewide mask mandate, empowering all of us to be guardians of Connecticut’s most susceptible citizens,” Parente said.

A series of executive orders has given the governor broad authority to set pandemic policies without legislative approval. Those orders expire on Feb. 15, one week into the legislative session.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, a Democrat from Hartford, said he expects the legislature to debate issues such as masking requirements when lawmakers reconvene. Lamont, he said, is unlikely to request another extension of his executive authority.

Ritter said he has “no problem” with a statewide masking mandate.

“There’s a growing body of people saying it’s something we should do, at least for a few weeks to get through this bump,” he said. “It’s up to the executive branch [now] but it will fall on the legislature’s lap” after Feb. 15.

Ruling permits appeals on telework

Union state workers can do so if required at office more than once a week

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Thousands of unionized state employees can now appeal being required to work in the office more than one day a week under a ruling by a state arbitrator.

The ruling comes after initial clashes with Gov. Ned Lamont’s administration over a policy that has become more important for workers during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For decades, state employees routinely worked in office buildings in Hartford and other nearby communities, but that changed quickly when the pandemic began spreading in March 2020.

Lamont and the unions had reached an earlier agreement that was announced in early August, but that was only temporary as the two sides looked toward a permanent policy.

The detailed, 37-page arbitration award essentially says that “any denial or modification of a telework application that would result in a member being required to be at the work site more than one day per week is appealable,” the union coalition said.

State employees can request work-at-home schedules that they believe are “consistent with job duties and operational needs,” says the ruling by arbitrator Michael R. Ricci. “All such requests shall be reviewed and granted, denied, or modification suggested in accordance with the procedures and standards of this policy, except that the determination of an agency to refuse to grant telework above an amount that would provide one day per workweek at the worksite shall not be subject to arbitration under this policy.”

The arbitrator accepted the union’s last, best offer on the issue.

State employees handle a wide range of jobs, and many of them — such as state troopers on highways, correction officers in the prisons, child-protection social workers visiting families, and transportation department drivers clearing the snow — cannot do their work at home.

Teleworking increased sharply in March 2020 when the state Capitol was closed and Lamont told executive branch employees that they should work at home if they could.

Lamont started negotiating with the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition, known as SEBAC, as initial the shutdown restrictions around the state were eased. Under his emergency powers at the time, Lamont had sweeping authority. Many of those restrictions, however, have since been removed, and Lamont is currently operating with reduced emergency powers that are scheduled to expire on Feb. 15.

The Lamont administration and union officials have been trying to get along as they seek long-term labor peace, and they have avoided overheated rhetoric that was often more common in the past. Administration officials did not immediately respond for comment Monday.

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

State Sen. Haskell not seeking reelection

Rising Democratic star from Fairfield County to focus on law school

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — State Sen. Will Haskell, a rising star in the Connecticut Democratic Party, stunned colleagues Monday by saying he will not seek reelection in order to attend law school full time.

Haskell is stepping down because he plans to attend Fordham or New York University, which would require him to spend long hours in Manhattan in pursuit of his law career.

Haskell, 25, said he is not ruling out a return to politics in Connecticut. When asked if he would run for Congress if Greenwich Democrat Jim Himes retires,

Haskell said, “I’m not closing any doors for the future.”

With one more year left in his state Senate term, Haskell said he will be working hard during the upcoming legislative session that begins on Feb. 9 and then will campaign vigorously for his successor in the important 2022 political cycle.

Haskell burst onto the state political scene at the age of 22 in November 2018 with a major upset of Republican Sen. Toni Boucher of Wilton in a once-heavily Republican district in lower Fairfield County. The district includes the affluent towns of Westport, Weston, Wilton, New Canaan, and Ridgefield. Republicans had held the seat since the 1970s, but the region has gradually changed to the point that Democrat Hillary Clinton



Sen. Will Haskell, Gov. Ned Lamont, and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz stand together as a ribbon-cutting is held to celebrate the new exit 29 off-ramp to the Charter Oak Bridge and I-84 East in May in Hartford. Haskell, a close ally of Lamont, stunned colleagues Monday by announcing he will not seek reelection. COURANT FILE PHOTO

Turn to Haskell, Page 7

CONNECTICUT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Protocol for schools updated

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut Department of Public Health last Friday released new guidance for school districts regarding how long students should quarantine, when to test and when to return to school. The guidelines also give schools the option to discontinue contact tracing and instead focus on detecting symptomatic students and staff. The department's update follows new guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which shortened the recommended isolation period for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to five days. Here's what you need to know.

What should my child do if they are exposed to COVID-19? Fully vaccinated students who have a close contact with a known COVID-19 case can continue going to school for in-person learning if they are asymptomatic, the Department of Public Health recommends. They should continue to wear a mask around others for 10 days, and should

consider quarantining for five days from activities outside of school where the virus could be transmitted. The department recommends getting tested either at a testing site or with an at-home rapid test or a lab test. The guidelines are more strict for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students. The department is now recommending that these students stay home from school and quarantine for five days after their last exposure to COVID-19. Like fully vaccinated students, these students should also test for COVID-19 after five days and wear a mask around others for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms? This also depends on vaccination status. Fully vaccinated students should isolate at home immediately after symptoms develop and access a test. If negative, they can return to regular activities 24 hours after symptoms significantly improve. If positive, students should isolate for a minimum of five days. They can return to regular activities as early as day six so long as symptoms are improved,

but should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional five days. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students with symptoms, if also notified of a close contact with COVID-19, must isolate for a minimum of five days regardless of test results. These students can return to regular activities after six days if symptoms significantly improve. If they are not notified of a known close contact with COVID-19, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students should follow the same guidance as fully vaccinated students.

What if my child tests positive, but doesn't have any symptoms? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people isolate for five days after a positive test, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms and regardless of vaccination status.

What about contact tracing? The Department of Public Health is recommending that schools discontinue contact tracing for cases that occur inside school, and focus instead on identifying symptom-

atic cases among students and staff. Contact tracing becomes less effective when community transmission levels are high, as they now are in Connecticut, the department noted, and the risk of in-school exposure is relatively low when robust safety and mitigation strategies are followed. They also highlight the current wave of testing demand and shortened isolation guidelines from the CDC, which "make it likely that many students would be outside of their quarantine period by the time contact tracing could be completed."

What should schools do if they don't contact trace? Schools should continue to enforce universal masking inside of schools, barring medical exceptions, the department recommends. Periods of unmasking inside school, like lunch periods, should be brief and physically distanced. Schools should also continue to keep parents and guardians of students, as well as staff, apprised of the positive cases within the school population.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Haskell

from Page 6

defeated Donald Trump in the district in 2016 by 22 percentage points. In a political year when Republicans already believe they have national momentum going into the mid-term elections, Haskell's departure represents a chance for Republicans to regain a long-held seat that has been held briefly — four years — by a Democrat. The scenario is similar to the Republicans' recapture of the 36th Senate district seat that had been held by Greenwich Republicans for decades by L. Scott Frantz, William Nickerson, Mike Morano, Bennie Benvenuto and others. The seat was captured briefly by Senator Alex Kasser, but then Republicans won it back after Kasser stepped down for personal reasons. Greenwich Republican Ryan Fazio won a special election in August and is serving out the remainder of Kasser's term. State Republican chairman Ben Proto said he believed the Republicans had a good chance in the district, but the chances have now improved. "Much like Alex Kasser did a favor for the folks in the 36th district, Will Haskell did a favor for the folks in the 26th district," Proto said Monday. Even with full-time hours, state legislators are technically part-time employees with a salary of \$28,000 per year. Haskell will now be entering a profession that he has

contemplated even before running for office. "Finances are definitely part of the decision," he said in an interview. "If I'm ever going to go to law school, now feels like the time to do it." A Westport resident, Haskell became a close political ally of Gov. Ned Lamont, a fellow Fairfield County Democrat. "My constituents took a chance on me when I was just 22, having freshly graduated from college," Haskell said. "And since then, I've worked tirelessly in Hartford and at home to live up to their trust." He admits it was a major, bittersweet decision that was not easy. "I really love this job," Haskell said in an interview. "When I ran for office, I didn't do it because I thought I was the only or the best person to represent this community. I thought it was time for a change. ... Hopefully, one day, I'd love to return to politics." Haskell is also leaving to be closer to his fiancée, Katie Cion, a recent Harvard Law School graduate and civil rights attorney who will be moving to New York City. Cion and Haskell were laboratory partners in their physics class in high school in 2014 and have maintained a long-distance relationship. "I hope my constituents don't see this as goodbye, but more, see you later," he said.

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Masks

from Page 6

at city senior centers; ■ 2,000 kits to be held in reserve pending future allocations. In addition to at-home test kits, the city also will distribute thousands of KN95 and N95 masks to the same organizations. The city purchased the masks, according to a release. City Councilwoman Maly Rosado said she supports the

temporary mask mandate. "We are all eager to put COVID behind us," she said. "Putting a temporary indoor mask mandate back in place for January will help to control the spread of the omicron variant and to protect the most vulnerable members of our community." Another shipment of test kits designated specifically for students is expected later in the week from the state, the mayor said. An allocation plan will be

announced when the shipments are received. "Test kits and masks are valuable tools in our ongoing fight against COVID-19, but the very best thing everyone can do to protect themselves and others from COVID is to get vaccinated or boosted," Bronin said. "If you have not yet done so, go out and get your vaccine today." The city put in place a mask mandate in August as the delta variant spread, but lifted it in November when the numbers began to trend

in a better direction. "We've said from the very beginning that we would follow the data, that we would respond to the trends that we see," Bronin said at a November press conference. Now, the extremely contagious omicron variant has boosted the state's positivity rate to the highest of the pandemic — 21.5%, state officials said Monday. Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Julio Concepcion is the executive director of the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. He was incorrectly identified in a story on Page 1 of Monday's paper.

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Due to a technical error, this crossword did not publish on Sunday Jan 2, 2022.

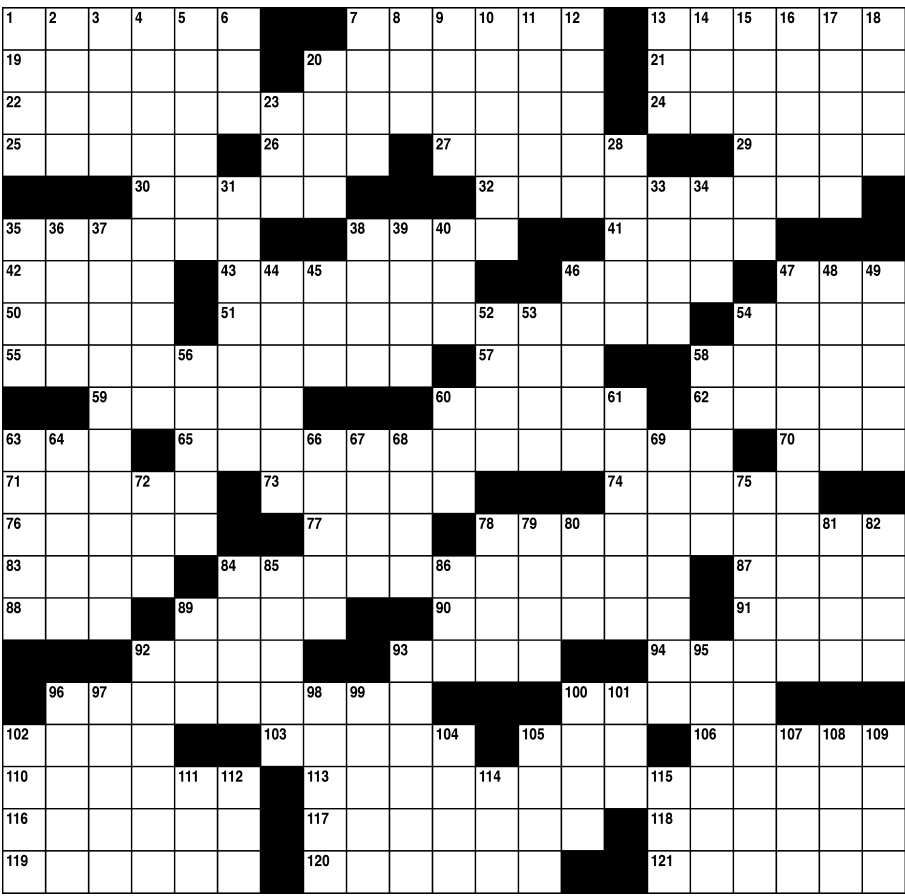
New York Times Crossword

PEST CONTROL

BY CHRISTINA IVERSON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Christina Iverson, of Ames, Iowa, is a crossword constructor with two young children. She has been making puzzles for The Times since 2019. Christina says she aims to make puzzles that are fun and accessible. "I try my hardest to stay away from obscure language — and squeeze in dad jokes whenever I can." This is her fourth Sunday and 10th crossword overall for the paper. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Appointment
7 People of the Southwest
13 Wishy-washy response
19 Had the opportunity to, casually
20 Entertainment with a private audience?
21 Malice, more formally
22 One wearing chap stick, perhaps
24 Be up against
25 Poker variety similar to Texas Hold 'em
26 Counterpart of "Thx"
27 Saves for later, in a way
29 Ploy
30 Lost
32 Antarctic coordinate
35 "A man has cause for only when he sows and no one reaps": Charles Goodyear
38 Bit of tinder
41 First side to vote
42 ____ course
43 New York City transport stopping at Kennedy Airport
46 Beginning stage
47 Prefix with thermal
50 There might be a catch with this
51 Brouse and broach, perhaps
54 Wet bar?
55 Form of nepotism, symbolically
57 Herd member
58 Sauce
59 Place, as ceramic tiles
60 Like autumn air
62 Person helping with a delivery
63 Word before film and after clip
65 It has many beet and beef options
- DOWN**
- 1 Number of sides on a sign reading "ALTO"
2 Space
- 3 ____ mater (brain cover)
4 Politico-turned-TV-host
5 Form thoughts
6 Catch
7 Seeks a favor, say
8 ____ favor
9 Working hard
10 Java activity
11 Product from un ave
12 Boo-boo
13 Texter's qualifier
14 One might be put through the wringer
15 Geek Squad members, e.g.
16 "I can thrill you more than any ____ could ever dare try" ("Thriller" lyric)
17 "The Glass Bead Game" author, 1943
18 Pecan or peach
20 Sch. where a live bear used to take the field during football games
23 Echo, perhaps
28 Pimple look-alikes
31 It usually works in corners
33 "Catch!"
34 Baker's Joy alternative
35 Record speeds, for short
36 Adams of New York City politics
37 Antelope, say
38 Parable or allegory
39 Devices with Nunchuks
40 Business newsmagazine
44 "For shame!"
45 Slugging stat
46 Member of the inn crowd?
47 Approach for directions
48 Onetime collaborator with Ice Cube and Dr. Dre
- 49 Some sports tournaments
52 Big name in women's hair and skin care
53 Boo-boo
54 Word with story or sister
56 Economist/author Emily
58 Screw up
60 Relative of a club, for short
61 Place for boarding
63 You can count on them
64 Member of the modern work force
66 Great Lakes natives
67 Kind of bean
68 Taiwanese electronics giant
69 "I'm about to tell you something shocking"
72 Haddock relative
75 Doesn't put it all on one pony
78 Suvari of "American Beauty"
79 Sounds heard in 93-Across
80 Destructive 2021 hurricane
81 Nouveau-Mexique, e.g.
82 Lip or cheek
84 Put over the moon
85 One hanging around Queen Elizabeth?
86 With it, in old slang
89 "Snowpiercer" ailer
92 Sporting a certain natural style
93 Avoids
95 Tortoise's challenge to the hare
96 Nickname for the French Alexandre
97 No longer squeaky (one hopes!)
98 John Wayne, by birth



No. 0102

- 99 Who ran against George Washington for president
100 "____ chance!"
101 Letters that complete this word: _P_ROPRIA_E
102 Snaps
104 Squeezes (out)
105 Good thing to be in
107 Letters on dreidels
108 Taj Mahal's home
109 Exam that once required fingerprint identification, for short
111 Exercise
112 Animal house
114 Demon of Japanese folklore
115 Folklore villain

Answer To Last Week's Puzzle:

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles. nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Biden: More competition can help ease food costs

But industry groups say pandemic, labor, energy bills driving prices higher

By Josh Boak and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden met virtually with independent farmers and ranchers Monday to discuss initiatives to reduce food prices by increasing competition within the meat industry, part of a broader effort to show his administration is trying to combat inflation.

“Capitalism without competition isn’t capitalism — it’s exploitation,” Biden said.

Higher-than-expected inflation has thwarted Biden’s agenda, hurt his public approval rating, become fodder for Republican attacks and prompted Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., to cite higher prices as a reason to sideline the Democratic president’s tax, social and economic programs. In November, consumer prices rose 6.8% over the prior 12 months — a 39-year high.

On food costs, Biden is building off a July executive order that directed the Agriculture Department to more aggressively look at possible violations of the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act, which was designed

to ensure fair competition and protect consumers. Meat prices have climbed 16% from a year ago, with beef prices up 20.9%.

The president said the higher prices have been the subject of frustration at his own kitchen table. He said his wife, Jill, was talking Sunday with her sister and a friend about a pound of hamburger meat costing \$5 a pound, compared with less than \$4 before the pandemic.

The administration is targeting meat processing plants, which can shape the prices paid to farmers and charged to consumers. The White House issued a fact sheet saying that the top four companies control 85% of the beef market. In poultry, the biggest four processing firms control 54% of the market. And for pork, the figure is 70% for the four biggest firms.

Many industry groups are pushing back against the administration’s planned oversight of the food industry.

Neil Bradley, executive vice president and chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the coronavirus and higher costs for energy and labor are driv-

ing meat prices higher, not the corporate structure of the industry.

Bradley said the administration is practicing politics instead of economics and “government intervention would likely further constrain supply and push prices even higher.”

Mike Brown, president of the National Chicken Council, said, “This looks like a solution in search of a problem.” He said the administration is using the food industry as a “scapegoat for the significant challenges facing our economy.”

The Justice Department and the Agriculture Department will launch a joint effort to make it easier to report anti-competitive actions to the government. The administration will also seek to improve the transparency of the cattle market, with Biden saying, “A free market isn’t truly free without transparency around prices.”

The effort is an attempt to regain control of the economic narrative. Inflation and waves of coronavirus outbreak have dampened people’s opinions about the economy despite strong growth over the past year.

Telecoms spurn call to delay 5G rollout plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Verizon and AT&T have rejected a request by the U.S. government to delay the rollout of next-generation wireless technology.

A joint letter from the telecommunications giants to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Steve Dickson, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, sought to dismiss concerns brought by U.S. airlines that a new 5G wireless service could harm aviation.

But Hans Vestberg, CEO of Verizon Communications, and John Stankey, CEO of AT&T, also wrote in the letter sent Sunday that they were willing to accept some temporary measures over the next six months to limit the service around certain airport runways.

Airlines had asked the Federal Communications Commission to delay this week’s scheduled 5G rollout, saying the service, set to launch Wednesday, could interfere with electronics that pilots rely on.

Airlines for America, a trade group for large U.S. passenger and cargo carriers, said in an emergency filing that the FCC has failed to adequately consider the harm that 5G service could do to the industry. The group wants more time for the FCC and the FAA, which regulates airlines, to resolve issues around aviation safety. Those are related to a type of 5G service that relies on chunks of radio spectrum called C-Band, which wireless carriers spent billions of dollars to buy up last year.

AT&T and Verizon previously agreed to a one-month delay in 5G, which provides faster speeds when mobile devices connect to their networks. But the telecommunications executives said further delays requested by the government would harm their customers.



Red Dirt Sungrown in Guthrie, Oklahoma, above, produces about 125 pounds of cannabis each week. BRETT DEERING/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Okla. cannabis market booms

Staunchly conservative state emerges as a highly unlikely place for marijuana to thrive

By Simon Romero
The New York Times

KEOTA, Okla. — Across Oklahoma, a staunchly conservative state with a history of drawing people in search of wealth from the land, a new kind of crop is taking over.

Next door to a church in the tiny town of Keota, the smell of marijuana drifts through the air at the G & C Dispensary. Strains go for \$3 a gram, about a quarter of the price in other states. Down the road, an indoor-farming operation is situated in a residential area near mobile homes, one of about 40 in the town of 500 residents.

Since the state legalized medical marijuana in 2018, Oklahoma has become one of the easiest places to launch a weed business. The state now boasts more retail cannabis stores than Colorado, Oregon and Washington combined.

The growth is remarkable given that the state has not legalized recreational use of marijuana. But with lax rules on who can obtain a medical card, about 10% of Okla-

homa’s nearly 4 million residents have one, by far the most of any state.

Fueled by low barriers for entry and a fairly hands-off approach by state officials, weed entrepreneurs have poured in. It costs just \$2,500 to get started, compared to \$100,000 or more across the state line in Arkansas. And Oklahoma, a state that has long had a tough-on-crime stance, has no cap on how many dispensaries can sell marijuana, the number of cannabis farms or how much each farm can produce.

That growth has pitted legacy ranchers and farmers against this new breed of growers. Groups representing ranchers, farmers, sheriffs and crop dusters recently joined forces to call for a moratorium on new licenses. They cited climbing prices for land, illicit farms and strains on rural water and electricity supplies.

Signs of the explosive growth are hard to miss. There are now towns with far more dispensaries than food stores. And cannabis operations now outnumber wheat and cotton farms. The industry has also created thousands of jobs in a state that remains among the poorest in the country. Supporters of the industry also argue that the less punitive approach to possession of marijuana and other drugs, along with other

sentencing reforms, has eased pressures on the state’s prisons.

But critics assert that growers in Oklahoma are producing far more marijuana than can possibly be sold in the state and are feeding illicit markets around the U.S.

Growers can produce cannabis for as little as \$100 a pound, and then turn around and sell that for between \$3,500 to \$4,000 a pound in California or New York, said Mark Woodward, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.

Eyeing such violations, authorities carried out a series of raids last year, shutting down nearly 80 farms starting in April.

Some growers have grouched that the ever-expanding supply has made cannabis prices plunge by about half in the last six months, to as low as \$800 a pound for some strains.

Tara Tischauer, co-owner of Red Dirt Sungrown in Guthrie said falling prices have reduced her revenue by about one-third in 2021. Still, her operation employs 25 people and steadily produces about 125 pounds of cannabis a week.

“A few years ago I thought Oklahoma would have been the last state in the country to get cannabis going,” she said. “If we can’t succeed, it’s our own fault.”

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Turkey inflation hits 19-year high

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey’s yearly inflation climbed by the fastest pace in 19 years, jumping to 36.08% in December, official data showed Monday.

The Turkish Statistical Institute said the consumer price index increased by 13.58% in December from the previous month. The yearly increase in food prices was 43.8%, the data showed.

The yearly inflation rate was the highest since September 2002. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s ruling party came to power two months later.

Inflation has been rising in the country while the Turkish lira has been slumping to record lows after the central bank — under pressure from Erdogan — cut a key interest rate by 5 percentage points in September.

Tesla deliveries up 87% in 2021

AUSTIN, Texas — Tesla delivered a record 936,000 vehicles last year, up 87% from its 2020 delivery count, the company said.

The Austin-based electric vehicle company announced its fourth-quarter production and delivery results Sunday.

The carmaker said it delivered 308,600 vehicles in the final quarter of 2021, which is also a record for the company and thousands more cars than Wall Street analysts expected.

Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives said the numbers are “jaw-dropping” given the global chip shortage affecting the automotive industry. Ives said the production increase was likely boosted by growing demand from car buyers in China, as well as broader enthusiasm for electric vehicles.

Thousands of US flights canceled — again

Associated Press

A winter storm hitting the mid-Atlantic combined with the pandemic to further frustrate air travelers whose return flights home from the holidays were canceled or delayed in the first few days of the new year.

More than 2,600 U.S. flights and more than 4,100 worldwide were grounded Monday, according to tracking service FlightAware. Another 8,500 flights were delayed, including 3,100 in the United States.

Travelers could take hope from an improving weather forecast. Airlines canceled fewer than 300 U.S. flights scheduled for Tuesday.

First, however, they had to contend with

a winter storm Monday that was expected to bring as much as 10 inches of snow for the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and central Maryland.

With the spread of the omicron variant, the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. has tripled over the past two weeks and topped 400,000 Sunday, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The toll of grounded flights in the U.S. was in the few hundreds per day the week before Christmas, then soared past 1,000 a day.

For several days, airlines and their passengers lucked out with mostly favorable weather, but a storm that hit the Midwest on Saturday caused cancellations

to spike again to new highs.

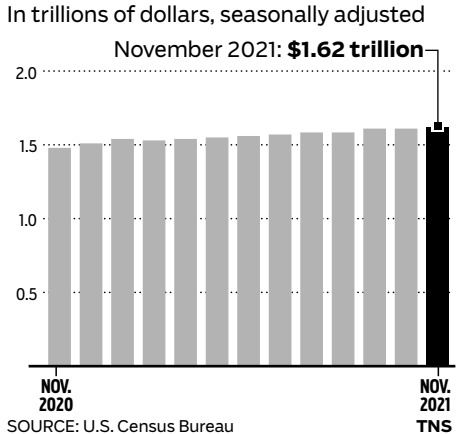
Over the weekend, about 5,400 U.S. flights were canceled — nearly 12% of all scheduled flights — and more than 9,000 worldwide, according to FlightAware. Many of the cancellations were made hours or even a day in advance. Airlines believe they have a better chance to keep lighter schedules on track when there are disruptions such as snow or thunderstorms.

Airlines are paying bonuses to encourage pilots and flight attendants to pick up flights left empty by co-workers with COVID-19. United will pay pilots triple their usual wages for picking up open flights through most of January. Spirit Airlines reached a deal with the union to pay flight attendants double through Tuesday.

Construction spending

November construction spending in the U.S. rose 0.4% from October.

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING



BUSINESS

Former Aetna CEO to be co-leader of Connecticut hedge fund Bridgewater

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund, announced Monday that Mark Bertolini, former chief executive officer of Aetna before it was purchased in 2018 by CVS Health Corp., is the new co-CEO.

The Westport-based hedge fund, with assets under management of about \$150 billion, said Bertolini, who is co-chair of Bridgewater's Operating Board of Directors, and Deputy CEO Nir Bar Dea, a retired major and a platoon leader in the Israeli Defense Forces, begin as co-CEOs immediately.

They succeed David H. McCormick, an under secretary of the Treasury in the administration of President George W. Bush. He is considering a run for the U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania being vacated by Republican Pat Toomey, who is retiring.

"Through this Co-CEO model, we are getting a powerful combination of Nir, a well-respected internal leader who has worked closely with Dave, management, and the (chief information officers) for six years, and Mark, who has enormous experience and is a globally respected and proven CEO," founder Ray Dalio and other executives said in a statement posted on its website.

Bridgewater said Bertolini led Aetna's transition from a "traditional health insurance company to a consumer-oriented health care company focused on delivering holistic, integrated care in local communities."

Dalio, Bridgewater's co-chief investment offi-



Aetna chairman and CEO Mark Bertolini speaks at the Fortune Global Forum in 2015 in San Francisco. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

cer, and Bertolini share an outlook that's critical of conventional health care and economics.

Bertolini, 65, has promoted his vision of a modest and local health care systems rooted in communities using "smaller and smaller governance models." He has said social and economic systems have gotten too big for government to manage.

He negotiated the \$69 billion acquisition of Aetna, a presence in Hartford since 1853. He was thwarted a few years earlier when a federal judge blocked his bid to buy Humana Inc. for \$37 billion.

Dalio, 72, told an audience at the Greenwich Economic Forum in November 2019 that capitalism needs to be fixed and does not work for the "average person."

Bridgewater and then-Gov. Dannel P. Malloy faced criticism in 2016 when the hedge fund received \$22 million in forgivable state loans and grants to create 750 jobs and keep the 1,402 positions it then had. The money was to be used to renovate and expand the firm's Westport head-

quarters and operations in Wilton and Norwalk.

Bridgewater has so far been forgiven \$10.8 million of a \$17 million loan, with a balance of about \$6.2 million, said a spokesman for the state Department of Economic and Community Development. The hedge fund received \$5 million in grants and was allocated up to \$30 million in Urban and Industrial Site Reinvestment Tax Credits that must be earned over 10 years.

It has so far earned \$12 million in credits.

Malloy defended the aid, saying Bridgewater had been seeking a possible new headquarters in Westchester County, N.Y.

McCormick has yet to officially declare his candidacy, but he has aired at least two TV commercials in Pennsylvania, bought a house in Pittsburgh and held closed-door meetings with party officials and donors, according to Associated Press. He has lived in Connecticut since 2009.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

Popular Apple AirTags used as a high-tech stalking tool?

By Ryan Mac and Kashmir Hill
The New York Times

On a Sunday night in September, Ashley Estrada was at a friend's home in Los Angeles when she received a strange notification on her iPhone: "AirTag Detected Near You."

An AirTag is a 1.26-inch disc with location-tracking capabilities that Apple started selling last year as a way "to keep track of your stuff."

Estrada, 24, didn't own one, nor did the friends she was with. The notification on her phone said the AirTag had first been spotted with her four hours earlier. A map of the AirTag's history showed the path Estrada had driven across the city while running errands.

"I felt so violated," she said.

Estrada is not alone.

In recent months, people have posted on TikTok, Reddit and Twitter about finding AirTags on their cars and in their belongings. There is concern that the devices may be abetting a new form of stalking, which privacy groups predicted could happen when Apple introduced the devices in April.

The New York Times spoke with seven women who believe they were tracked with AirTags, including a 17-year-old whose mother placed one on her car to stay apprised of her whereabouts.

Some authorities have begun to take a closer look at the threat posed by AirTags. The West Seneca Police Department in New York recently warned its community of the tracking potential of the devices after an AirTag was found on a car bumper. Apple complied with a subpoena for information about the AirTag in the case, which



Apple AirTags are devices that can track locations. CARLOS JARAMILLO/ THE NEW YORK TIMES

may lead to charges, West Seneca police said.

And in Canada, a local police department said that it had investigated five incidents of thieves placing AirTags on "high-end vehicles so they can later locate and steal them."

Researchers believe AirTags, which are equipped with Bluetooth technology, could be revealing a more widespread problem of tech-enabled tracking. They emit a digital signal that can be detected by devices running Apple's mobile operating system. Those devices then report where an AirTag was last seen. Unlike similar tracking products from competitors such as Tile, Apple added features meant to prevent abuse, including notifications like the one Estrada received and automatic beeping. (Tile plans to release a feature to prevent the tracking of people this year, a spokesperson for that company said.)

Apple does not disclose sales figures, but the \$29 AirTags have proved popular, selling out consistently since their unveiling.

An Apple spokesperson, Alex Kirschner, said in a statement that the company takes customer safety "very seriously" and is "committed to AirTag's privacy and

security."

Police could ask Apple to provide information about the owner of the AirTag, potentially identifying the culprit. But some of the people who spoke with The Times were unable to find the AirTags they were notified of and said police do not always take reports of the notifications on their phones seriously.

Estrada, who got the notification while in Los Angeles, eventually found the quarter-sized tracker lodged in a space behind the license plate of her 2020 Dodge Charger. She posted a video of her ordeal on TikTok, which went viral.

Estrada said she was told by a Los Angeles police dispatcher that her situation was a nonemergency and that if she wanted to file a report she'd have to bring the device with her to the station in the morning. She didn't want to wait and disposed of it after taking several photos.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles police told The Times that the department had not heard of cases in which an AirTag had been used to track a person or a vehicle. But Estrada said that after she posted her TikTok video, an Apple employee, acting on their own, contacted her. The employee was able to connect the AirTag to a woman whose address was in central Los Angeles.

In June, after concerns about stalking were raised, Apple pushed an update to AirTags to cause them to start beeping within a day of being away from their linked devices, down from three days.

A person who doesn't own an iPhone might have a harder time detecting an unwanted AirTag. AirTags aren't compatible with Android smartphones. Last month, Apple released an Android app that can scan

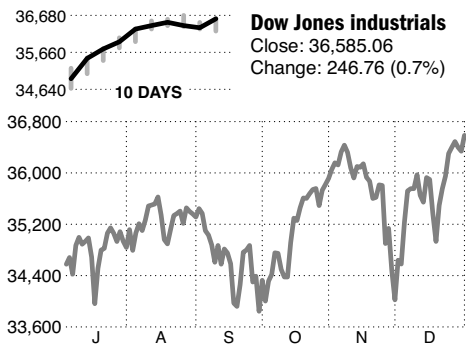
MARKET RUNDOWN

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

▲ DOW
36,585.06 +246.76

▲ 10-YR T-BOND
1.63% +.12

▼ GOLD
\$1,799.40 -28.10



Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	36,585.06	+246.76	+68%
DOW Trans.	16,302.79	-175.47	-1.06%
DOW Util.	972.24	-8.54	-87%
NYSE Comp.	17,226.10	+61.98	+36%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,832.80	+187.83	+1.20%
S&P 500	4,796.56	+30.38	+64%
S&P 400	2,851.05	+9.05	+32%
Wilshire 5000	48,789.36	+328.20	+68%
Russell 2000	2,272.56	+27.25	+1.21%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	76.08	75.21	+1.16%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.82	3.73	+2.28%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.26	2.23	+1.27%

METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,799.40	1,827.50	-1.54%
Silver (oz)	22.79	23.33	-2.31%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx	U.S. \$
Britain	1.3485	.7416
Canada	.7845	1.2747
China	.1573	6.3561
Euro	1.1298	.8851
Japan	.008670	115.34
Mexico	.048715	20.5276

Money Rates

	PREV.	CLOSE	WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.09	0.06	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.22	0.21	
5-yr T-Note	1.37	1.26	
10-yr T-Note	1.63	1.48	
30-yr T-Bond	2.02	1.89	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	16,020.73	+135.87	+86%	+86%
London	+14.30%
Hong Kong	23,274.75	-122.92	-53%	-53%
Nikkei	28,791.71

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	26.52	-.68	-2.5		Kaman (KAMN)	43.59	+.44	+1.0	
AT&T Inc (T)	25.43	+.83	+3.4		Keycorp (KEY)	23.58	+.45	+1.9	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	150.24	+6.34	+4.4		Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	69.71	+1.45	+2.1	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.75	+.79	+4.4		Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	40.93	+2.88	+7.6	
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	2.56	+.13	+5.3		MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	45.48	+.60	+1.3	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	86.50	-.96	-1.1		Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.99	
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.04	+.22	+2.8		MetLife Inc (MET)	63.23	+.74	+1.2	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	182.01	+.44	+2.5		Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	334.75	-1.57	-.5	
Armstrong Flooring (AFI)	2.77	+.79	+39.9		Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	22.18	+1.44	+6.9	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	49.64	-.24	-.5		Novartis AG (NVS)	87.87	+.40	+.5	
Bank of America (BAC)	46.18	+1.69	+3.8		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	301.21	+7.10	+2.4	
Barnes Group (B)	47.31	+.72	+1.5		Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	85.57	-1.50	-1.7	
BlueCity Holdings (BLCT)	1.80	+.27	+17.6		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.53	+.32	+1.8	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2461.42	+62.19	+2.6		Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	18.29	+.47	+2.6	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	61.88	-.47	-.8		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	56.65	-2.40	-4.1	
CIT Group (CIT)	53.50	+2.16	+4.2		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.75	+.12	+1.8	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.16	+1.00	+1.0		Prudential Fncl (PRU)	109.92	+1.68	+1.6	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.41	+1.29	+6.4		Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	66.16	-.57	-.9	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	62.52	-1.72	-3.2		Raytheon Technol (RTX)	86.97	+.91	+1.1	
Charter Commun (CHTR)	647.58	-4.39	-.7		Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.40	+.40	+.1	
Cigna Corp (CI)	234.20	+4.57	+2.0		SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	82.70	+.72	+.9	
Citigroup (C)	63.10	+2.71	+4.5		Sirius XM Hldgs Inc (SIRI)	6.36	+.01	+.2	
CocaCola Co (KO)	59.30	+.09	+.2		SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	15.68	-1.13	-.8	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.74	+.41	+.8		Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	185.93	-2.69	-1.4	
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	3.22	+.11	+3.5		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.74	+.44	+1.8	
Creative Medical Tch (CELZ)	3.20	+.99	+44.8		Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.62	+.04	+7.1	
Disney (DIS)	156.76	+1.87	+1.2		Terex Corp (TEX)	44.28	+.33	+.8	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	127.36	-.03	...		Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1199.78	+143.00	+13.5	
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	8.71	+.48	+5.8		Tilray Inc (TLRY)	7.39	+.36	+5.1	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.46	+.17	+.6		Transocean Ltd (RIG)	3.12	+.36	+13.0	
Eversource Energy (ES)	89.13	-1.85	-2.0		Travelers Cos (TRV)	155.75	-.68	-.4	
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	63.54	+2.35	+3.8		Uber Technologies (UBER)	43.95	+2.02	+4.8	
Ford Motor (F)	21.77	+1.00	+4.8		United Rentals (URI)	330.64	-1.65	-.5	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.78	+.58	+11.2		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	502.28	+.14	...	
Gen Dynamics (GD)	207.46	-1.01	-.5		Virut Invest (VRTS)	290.08	-7.02	-2.4	
Gen Electric (GE)	96.24	+1.77	+1.9		Voya Financial (VOYA)	67.83	+1.52	+2.3	
General Motors Co (GM)	61.17	+2.54	+4.3		Webster Financial (WBS)	57.76	+1.92	+3.4	
genprex Inc (GNPX)	3.50	+2.19	+167.2		Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	50.73	+2.75	+5.7	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.51	+.47	+.7		White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1010.24	-3.66	-.4	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	206.80	-1.71	-.8		World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.86	+.52	+1.1	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.09	+.17	+1.1		XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	75.50	-1.93	-2.5	
Immix Biopharma Inc (IMMX)	5.78	+2.22	+62.4		Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	22.76	+.12	+.5	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.26	-.05	-.2						
Intel Corp (INTC)	53.21	+1.71	+3.3						
Jowell Global Ltd (JWEL)	8.79	-12.76	-59.2						

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Fish Oil Failure Shines a Grim Light on America’s Memory Crisis

America’s top memory M.D. reveals the startling reason why “senior moments” may be caused by fish oil — and the #1 way to fix it fast

More than 16 million Americans suffer age-associated cognitive impairment. And according to nationwide research, these numbers are only rising.

Thankfully, anti-aging specialist and bestselling author, Dr. Al Sears, says there’s an easy way to banish senior moments for good. It’s a safe, natural compound that can grow the brain significantly bigger.

And unlike failed solutions that promise what they can’t deliver, this one actually works — at least, according to studies from Framingham, and other reputable universities.

But in order for it to work, you must avoid using run-of-the-mill fish oil supplements. “The worst thing you can do for your memory,” explains Dr. Sears, “is to supplement with fish oil.”

Dr. Al Sears, a highly-acclaimed MD — who has published more than 500 studies — says today’s low-grade supermarket fish oil is causing the surge in America’s memory crisis. “These cheap oils are no longer as nutrient-dense as they once were,” he explains.

If you want to get rid of embarrassing senior moments Dr. Sears recommends a different approach.

THE SECRET TO A LASTING MEMORY

Research has shown our paleo ancestors were able to grow bigger and smarter brains by eating foods rich in one ingredient — DHA. “Our hippocampus thrives off DHA, and grows because of it,” explains Dr. Sears. “Without DHA, our brains would shrink, and our memories would quickly fade.”

A groundbreaking study from the University of Alberta confirmed this. Animals given a diet rich in DHA saw a 29% boost in their hippocampus — the part of the brain responsible for learning and memory. As a result, these animals became smarter.

The same was found in human studies, too. After analyzing more than 1,500 seniors, the Framingham study found that those whose brains were deficient in DHA, had significantly smaller brains — a characteristic of accelerated aging and a weakened memory.

“Unfortunately, it’s almost impossible to boost levels of DHA simply by eating more fish or fish oil,” explains Dr. Sears. “DHA in fish oil has plummeted over the years. And it’s being replaced by another compound. One that can cause memory failure and brain fog.”

The ingredient Dr. Sears is referring to is called ALA — a compound found in cheap, grocery store fish oil.

PEOPLE’S BRAINS ARE SHRINKING AND THEY DON’T EVEN KNOW IT

Fish farming has caused DHA levels to plummet and ALA levels to rise, according to Dr. Sears.

“In order to produce DHA,” he explains, “fish need to eat a natural, marine diet, like the one they’d eat in the wild.” Without a marine-rich diet, most fish won’t produce DHA.

Dr. Sears uncovered that sometime during the 1990s, fish farmers stopped giving their animals a natural, DHA-rich diet and began feeding them a diet that was 70% vegetarian.

“It became too expensive for farmers to feed fish what they’d eat in the wild,” explains Dr. Sears. “And since more than 80% of fish oil comes from farms, it’s no wonder the country is experiencing a memory crisis. Most people’s brains are shrinking and they don’t even know it.”

“Since fish farmers are depriving these

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Why the ‘brain fuel’ ingredient in fish oil is slowly drying up.

animals of their natural diet, ALA levels in fish oil are going up, while DHA levels are being cut in half.

When asked, what can people do to improve their memory and brain function in the most effective way possible? Dr. Sears replied, “Find a quality DHA that doesn’t come from a farmed source. Only this will help improve memory by growing the brain significantly bigger.”

Dr. Sears and his team have been working tirelessly for the last 24-months developing a unique brain-boosting formula called Omega Rejuvenol. It’s made from the most powerful source of DHA in the ocean, squid and krill — two species that cannot be farmed.

According to Dr. Sears, these are the purest and most potent sources of DHA in the world, because they haven’t been tampered with. “Omega Rejuvenol is sourced from the most sustainable fishery in Antarctica. You won’t find this oil in any stores.”

MORE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

Already, the formula has sold more than 27,000 bottles. And for a good reason, too. Satisfied customers can’t stop raving about the memory-boosting benefits of quality-sourced DHA oil.

“I see a noticeable increase in my brain function. I’m experiencing a noticeable increase in my concentration level and productivity throughout the day,” says satisfied customer, Timothy B.

“It’s great to remember everyone who played in the ‘75 World Series. My memory has never been sharper,” says Mike T.

“After the first time I took it, I experienced mental clarity and focus. I noticed my mental function improve and I could concentrate better and be more productive throughout the day,” raves John F.

And 70-year-old Mark K. says, “My focus and memory are back to age-30 levels.”

These are just a handful of the thousands of reviews Dr. Sears receives on a regular basis thanks to his breakthrough memory formula, Omega Rejuvenol.

WHERE TO FIND OMEGA REJUVENOL

To secure bottles of this brain-booster, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 800-970-2477 within the next 48 hours. “It takes time to manufacture these bottles,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers who need it most.”

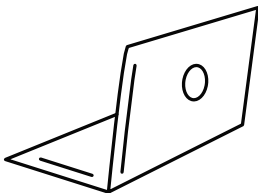
Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, he is offering a 100%, money-back guarantee on every order. “Send back any used or unused bottles within 90 days and I’ll rush you a refund,” says Dr. Sears.

The Hotline is taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will shut off to allow for inventory restocking.

Call 800-970-2477 to secure your limited supply of Omega Rejuvenol. Readers of this newspaper immediately qualify for a steep discount, but only if they call within the first 24 hours. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code NP0122OM53 when you call.

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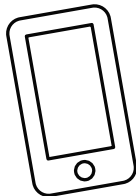
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OPINION

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Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., vice chair of the House panel investigating the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection, is flanked by Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., left, and Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md.
J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

OP-ED

Cheney stands firmly in defending democracy

By Lynn Schmidt

Imagine being a leader exiled to an island with only one other person. Now imagine that instead of shrinking under the wound of political isolation, you become stronger. Courage somehow thrives in this seclusion. Truth, honor and integrity build the foundation of a lighthouse that becomes a beacon of leadership. The love of country is the shining light inviting others to this island.

This is the kind of leadership that is good, true, and very sorely needed. This kind of leadership can begin a relationship based on trust.

The political exile I am referencing is none other than the sole U.S. representative from Wyoming, Rep. Liz Cheney. She is an example to me of everything that is right in government. When all that people can see in Washington is gloom, Cheney's leadership is a lighthouse. Cheney is one of a handful of elected officials who has chosen her country — our country — over her party. She has been willing to risk her own life, the life of her family, and her political career to uphold the oath to the Constitution that she proudly affirms.

Cheney was one of only 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach then-President Donald Trump in January following the Capitol insurrection attempt. In May, Cheney was voted out of House leadership by her fellow House Republican members for criticizing the former president. Cheney gave a defiant speech on the House floor later that night.

"This is not about policy, this is not about partisanship, this is about our duty as Americans," Cheney said. "Remaining silent and ignoring the lie emboldens the liar. I will not participate in that. I will not sit back and watch in silence while others lead our party down a path that abandons the rule of law and joins the former president's crusade to undermine our democracy."

In September, Cheney was named vice chair of the select committee investigating the insurrection. Cheney serves with Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss. In November, the Wyoming GOP voted to no longer recognize Cheney as a Republican. Cheney is joined on her principled island with Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois.

Last month, Cheney addressed the New

Hampshire Free Speech Event. While discussing the domestic threats surrounding Jan. 6, Cheney said: "This task now falls to us. And the question for every one of us, not just elected officials, is this: Will we do what we must? Will we defend our Constitution? Will we stand for truth? Will we put duty to our oath above partisan politics? Or will we look away from the danger, ignore the threat, embrace the lies, and enable the liar?"

Her words are a call to all Americans to do what we need to do to save our republic. Cheney is leading by example, not only with her words but also by her actions.

The increase in toxic partisanship, tribalism and self-interest is wreaking havoc on America's faith and trust in our democracy. Gallup has been tracking American's trust in the government for decades. According to polling data published in September, Americans' trust and confidence in various aspects of the government remain low or have dropped lower when compared with the historical average for each. According to Gallup, trust is low, "particularly among Republicans, who register some record lows with their party out of power in Washington. Independents' trust is also

notably weak, and any increases in Democrats' trust appear to be tied to their party's control of the White House and Congress."

Only 37% of Americans trust the legislative branch. As a group, Republicans' trust in the legislative branch dropped 11 points to 22%. This lack of trust, especially with the legislative branch — designed by the Founders to be the most powerful branch of the government — constitutes a crisis. One that we should not continue to ignore.

One way to increase trust in government is to highlight those elected officials who work to earn that trust and reward them with our votes. That trust can be earned by telling Americans the truth and rejecting the lies. It is Cheney's dedication to the rule of law and her oath to uphold the Constitution that propels her work on the Jan. 6 select committee. She has shown remarkable courage in standing up to her political party, whose members all but exiled her to a political island. Cheney is almost single-handedly attempting to save our democracy.

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and editorial board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evidence is clear: Get fully vaccinated

To quote "Network," a 1976 film, "I'm mad as hell and not going to take this anymore." Why won't everyone get vaccinated? When over 75% of hospitalizations are with unvaccinated people, the evidence is clear: Get vaccinated and get a booster. The State of Connecticut and our health care providers have certainly been proactive in publicizing and educating the public about the need to do this, so the fault lies with individuals who, for whatever reason, aren't following documented advice.

Mimi Mead, Farmington

Hypocrisy apparently a byproduct of pandemic

Is the inability to be a critical thinker a byproduct of the pandemic? A letter to the editor titled "Candelora mixes politics with health advances" states that "Republican leader Vincent Candelora can't keep politics out of Lamont's creative and efficient method for ensuring vaccine compliance" [courant.com, Dec. 27]. Is Gov. Ned Lamont no longer a politician? So all these mandates Gov. Lamont put in place had nothing to do with politics? It seems that hypocrisy is a byproduct of the pandemic too.

Mark Walsh, West Hartford

Lamont needs to be a leader — again

Gov. Ned Lamont's decision to distribute some 6 million N95 masks to residents of Connecticut is a curious one given his recent stance on mask mandates. Our governor refuses to reinstitute a mask mandate despite the actions of some neighboring gubernatorial colleagues. This measure, taken earlier in the pandemic by Lamont, arguably kept Connecticut's positivity rate one of the lowest in the nation. I lauded

Gov. Lamont's handling of the pandemic — until he decided to leave the decision of mask mandates to local governments. As a leader, he should be making the difficult decisions for the well-being and safety of all residents of Connecticut. By not doing so, there are many towns that have put their most precious resources (people) at risk, as we watch positivity rates soar. The CDC, national and local public health experts repeatedly have advised that the layered approach of vaccinations, boosters, social distancing and masking are key to preventing the spread of this virus. Until we all heed this advice, this menace of a virus will continue to adversely affect our lives well into the future.

Theresa Bachhuber, New Hartford
The writer is a registered nurse

Airlines should share lists of unruly passengers

I remember a time when air travel was special and people dressed for the occasion while also behaving like well-mannered adults. Now it's an angry argument about masks with flight attendants. Appalling, and I'm glad substantial fines are being given with the airline banning the perpetrator for life.

But when someone at a casino is caught cheating and is banned from the property, a photo is distributed to surrounding casinos as a warning, because it's the right thing for business. The same sharing should occur with other airlines for the sake of safety.

Gavin Kelty, Manchester

John Madden over Harry Reid?

John Madden's death is noted in a promo on front page above the banner and Harry Reid is relegated to Page 2 [Dec. 29]? Sports figure over national political figure?

Wow.

Steven Fischer, North Granby

FRESH TALK

Mental health illness used to have control of me, and now I have control of it

By Andrew Strong

As a junior at Wethersfield High School, I keep myself busy. Not only am I trying to keep up with school, but I'm also trying to work on myself. I've struggled with mental health illness my whole life, and am still struggling. I feel like I'm on a treadmill, while I keep running and pushing myself to do better, I get nowhere.

When I was a little kid, I was struggling with mental health, going to therapy, and I didn't understand anything but that I was hurting. I felt as if I was stuck, drowning in my feelings, and I didn't know why. It's hard to get through the day when I have no motivation, or am filled up with emotions that I don't know how to handle. I didn't know any of my diagnosis, and I felt as if I was being labeled as something I didn't want to be.

Before I was able to get help for my illnesses, my parents didn't really understand what I was going through. It was such a struggle trying to get myself help, because I didn't know what I needed, and my parents weren't accepting the fact I was struggling. They thought I would be fine, thinking this is only a phase I was going through. There was such a stigma, and that stigma is apparent today where people are afraid to get help for themselves or others. They think with time it will go away, but that isn't the case.

I have been trying to get help my whole life. I was going to therapy since a young age, but it wasn't until a year ago where I really understood what I needed, and what I was going through.

We are all unique in our own way, and we all have struggles and barriers. When we are ready, we will get past them. The things I know now, I wish I knew when I was

younger. Mental health illness used to have control of me, and now I have control of it. I'm managing it, but life would be so much simpler if I had known how to handle my illness when I was younger.

Growing up, life would have been so much easier if I had known how to use my coping skills or if I was diagnosed earlier.

It should be a priority from elementary school to high school to help kids with mental health illness. I do not think that kids in elementary school get enough help. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, kids have been struggling with mental health issues without getting help. Kids should not have to go through what I went through. They are young, so they should be able to enjoy school. This is an issue that needs to be solved because if you aren't getting treated, then issues that you already have could get worse.

While many have been struggling like me with mental health illness, you always are able to get help. Whether it is structured therapy, such as meeting with a therapist or someone who specializes in the area of mental health, or if it's just meeting up with friends and family just to talk about how life's going, you can always get help.

Never be afraid, because mental health illness can be taken care of.

Andrew Strong, 16, is a junior at Wethersfield High School.

The Courant invites writers younger than 30 to write essays containing strong views. Please email your submission to oped@courant.com, with your full name, hometown, daytime phone number, age and occupation (or your school's name and your level in school).

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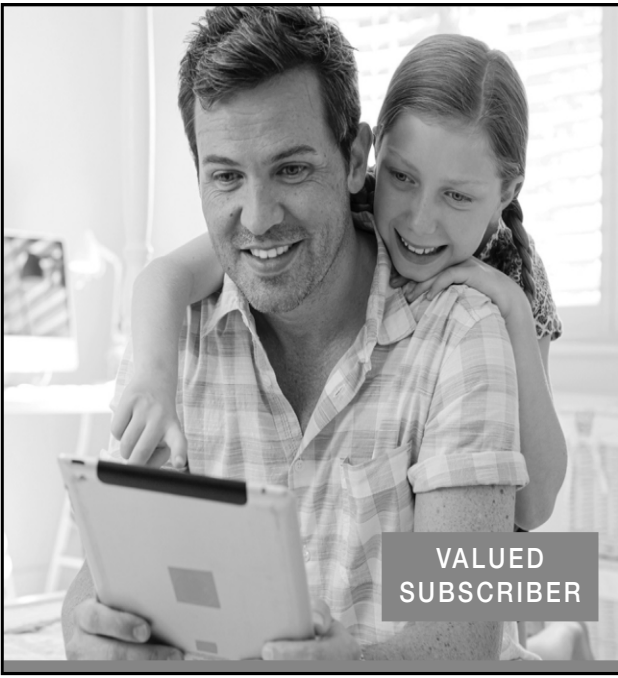


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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Richard A. Laurenzi, Late of West Hartford (21-0658)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 16, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Evelyn A. Laurenzi
c/o LISA COURSER, KEARNS & KEARNS,
1121 NEW BRITAIN AVE, WEST HARTFORD,
CT 06110

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Elizabeth Grace Thill, Late of West Hartford (20-0627)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 20, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jason Congdon
c/o MICHAEL J. CROLL, LAW OFFICE OF
MICHAEL J. CROLL, 1022 BOULEVARD
#188, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06119

TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to § 12-145 of the CT statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Lebanon gives notice that she will be ready to receive the second installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes, and Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes due January 1, 2022, at the Tax Collector's office in Town Hall, 579 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT 06249 during the month of January on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Lebanon Town Hall is closed on Wednesdays, and will also be closed Monday, January 17th, 2022. Payments must be received or postmarked by February 1st, 2022, to avoid interest. All taxes remaining unpaid after February 1st, 2022, will be charged interest from January 1st, 2022, at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per installment, § 12-146. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or respective penalties should the tax become delinquent, § 12-130.

Kelly A. Lawer
Lebanon Tax Collector
12/21, 1/4, 1/25/2022 7092735

TOWN OF WINDSOR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that this Commission will hold public hearings during its hybrid virtual meeting on January 11, 2022, at 7:00 PM, to hear and consider the following items:

Re-Subdivision – 500 Groton Rd., 2 lots, 133.791 acres, I Zone, Great Pond Improvement

Text Amendment – Form-Based Code, Sections 3, 4, and 5 Great Pond Village's Form-based Code & Regulating Plan, Lewis/Winstanley Enterprises, LLC

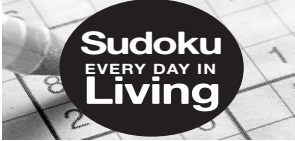
Information on how to attend the meeting by phone or computer will be included on the meeting agenda posted at:

<https://townofwindsorct.com/sf/show/meeting/3551>

Comments received ahead of the meeting will be read into the record. Please submit comments to the email address: planning@townofwindsorct.com

Dated this 23rd day of December 2021

Jill Levine, Secretary
Town Planning & Zoning Commission
12/28/21, 1/4/22 7113303



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Town of Cromwell Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Mattabasset District Financial Statement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, as prepared by Offerdahl Emerson & Company, LLC, of Killingworth CT, is available in the Town Clerk's office, 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT for public inspection.

JoAnn Doyle
Cromwell Town Clerk

Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 29th day of December, 2021
1/4/2022 7117842

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lucille K. Hancock (21-0647)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 29, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Amanda L. Demonstranti, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Frank Hancock c/o DEREK EDWARD DONNELLY, BLACKBURN & DONNELLY, LLC,
2 CONCORDE WAY #3C, PO BOX
608, WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096
1/4/22 7118557

TOWN OF GRANBY LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons liable for the payment of taxes to the Town of Granby on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 and Motor Vehicle Supplemental List of 2020. All supplemental motor vehicle taxes and the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes become due and payable January 1, 2022. NO SECOND NOTICE HAS BEEN MAILED FOR REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES. New property owners who have not received a bill should contact the tax office immediately. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest due.

If payment is not made on or before February 1, 2022, each bill becomes subject to interest according to the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. Taxes may be paid by mail, online at www.granby-ct.gov, or at the tax office drop-box outside Town Hall at 15 N. Granby Road.

Lauren C. Stuck, C.C.M.C.
Collector of Revenue
12/24/21, 1/4/22, 1/25/22 7108495

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission will conduct Public Hearings at a Special Meeting via ZOOM meeting on January 10, 2022, commencing at 7 PM, to consider the following:

1. Wetlands Permit Application of 31 Tobey Road, LTD, at 31 Tobey Road, lot 42-A, maps 55 and 88, for a self-storage facility (owner: 31 Tobey Road, LTD).
2. Wetlands Map Amendment Application of Khalid, LLC, 1301 Blue Hills Avenue, lots 1005 & 1006, map 301. Soil Scientist, James McManus (Owner: Patrick K. Robertson).
3. Wetlands Permit Application of Khalid, LLC, 1301 Blue Hills Avenue, lots 1005 & 1006, map 301, for a fueling and convenience store. (Owner: Patrick K. Robertson).

Full copies of the applications are available at the Planning office at Town Hall. Application material is also available on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission page of the Town's website. At this meeting, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. Information for how to attend this meeting virtually will be published on the Commission's website as a meeting agenda a minimum of 24 hours before the meeting.

Dated at Bloomfield, Connecticut this 20th day of December, 2021.

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Alan Budkofsky, Chairman
Kevin Wilcox, Secretary
12/28/21 & 1/4/22 7112040

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

259 Hartford Tpk
Tolland, CT 06084
Wednesday, January 19th 2022 12:00pm

555 Neal Walsh — Household goods, boxes

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

1/4, 1/11/2022 7116375

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

132 Silas Deane Hwy
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-916-0534

Auction Date- Jan 11, 2022 1:00 PM

84 Sonsharee Kennedy House goods
210B Kevin Powell House goods
325 Mary Babin House goods
169 Waymon Starks House goods
642 Angela D Berger House goods
336 Luis Amnu House goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

12/28/21, 1/4/22 7102752

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Charles J. Shimkus, Late of West Hartford, AKA Charles J. Shimkus, Sr. (21-0697)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 23, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Patricia R. Shimkus
c/o CHARLES J. SHIMKUS, SHIMKUS, MURPHY AND, ROSENBERGER, PC., 382 NEW BRITAIN AVENUE, HARTFORD, CT 06106

Granby Democrats

Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party in the Town of Granby: Pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party and the State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on **January 9, 2022 at 4 pm** at the Granby Senior Center, 16C N Granby Rd, Granby, CT to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee.

Lynn Guelzow, Chair

www.granbydems.org
860.371.7657

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Susan B. Porta, Late of West Hartford (21-0686)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 20, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Deborah Merino- Gruenloh
c/o ROBERT B. FAWCER, CUMMINGS AND, LOCKWOOD LLC, 75 ISHAM ROAD, SUITE 400, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

Legal Notice Town of Cromwell and Cromwell Fire District

Legal notice is hereby given that all supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills and the Second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property on the 2020 Grand List are due and payable on January 1, 2022. Taxes become delinquent if payment is not postmarked on or before February 1, 2022. Interest will be charged at 1.5% per month from the due date of January 1. A minimum of \$ 2.00 is charged for each delinquent Town and Fire District tax bill.

Office Hours- Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Douglas Sienna CCMC
Cromwell Tax Collector
12/24, 1/4, 1/27/2021 7083689

TOWN OF WINDSOR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that this Commission will hold public hearings during its hybrid virtual meeting on January 11, 2022, at 7:00 PM, to hear and consider the following items:

Special Use – 80 Poquonock Ave., Limited-Service Restaurant, Section 5.2.6D(1), Thomas

Information on how to attend the meeting by phone or computer will be included on the meeting agenda posted at:

<https://townofwindsorct.com/sf/show/meeting/3551>

Comments received ahead of the meeting will be read into the record. Please submit comments to the email address: planning@townofwindsorct.com

Dated this 29th day of December 2021 Jill Levine, Secretary Appear in the Hartford Courant Town Planning & Zoning Commission Tuesday, January 4, 2022, and Sunday, January 9, 2022 1/4/22 7118042

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

ExtraSpace Storage
2 Douglas St
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Wednesday, January 19th 2022 1:00pm

1071- Dujon Cunningham-Household Items
1072- Mark Little - Totes, Clothes
1193- Tyrone Graham - Household Items
1276- Tonytte Davis - Queen mattress set with frame, clothing, accessories, books/computers, portable closet, tv
1364- Sierra Simpson - Bed furniture 1 bedroom
1387- Anika Folsom - Clothes
1393- Guiline Menefee- Office Furniture
1444- London K Kendrick- Household Items
1548- Tamara Nicholas-Amali Misc Items
2007- Travis Pearison- Couch and Household Items
7- Carol Tessling- 2006 Saab 9-5 Model, parts
78- Anthony Bennett- Boat

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

1/4, 1/11/2022 7117040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Maria Orentas, Late of West Hartford (21-0689)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 29, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Paul E. Orentas
c/o JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN, ATTORNEY
JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN, 41 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 303, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Regina Saja (21-00877)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated December 29, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lillian Swan
c/o JOHN C. MATULIS,
JANUSZEWSKI M & D, 165 WEST MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 150, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050.
1/4/22 7117653

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Linda T. Halligan (21-00610)

The Hon. Cynthia C. Becker, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Simsbury Regional Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith Henry, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Paige E. Halligan c/o BARBARA ANN TAYLOR, REID AND RIEGE, pc, ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, HARTFORD, CT 06103
1/4/22 7118675

STORAGE TREASURES AUCTION

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 453 Washington Avenue North Haven CT 06473 on 1/11/2022 at 1:00 pm. Nicole Dinello unit 3147- 3148 household furniture, TV, Wayne Hammond unit A118 Industrial Spools. Christine Malatesta-Bohn unit 2065 house furniture. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

12/28/21, 1/4/22 7110853

Everyone Is Invited To A

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 88-196 & 88-197

Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04247 carrying High Street and B&M Railroad & Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04246 carrying Washington Street over Route 72 in the City of New Britain

Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 18, 2022

The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTNewBritain88-196-7>

The public informational meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Alvaro Garcia Jr., P.E. by email at alvaro.garcia@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-3353. (Allow one week for processing and delivery.)

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling 1-888-566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed-captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed-captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library>

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at DOTProject88-196-7@ct.gov. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111. Please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.




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Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I
check Bsmnt/Attic. 860-817-4350

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

Essex Republican Town Committee Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a
caucus of all enrolled Republican electors
of the Town of Essex on Tuesday, January
11, 2022 at 7:00pm at Essex Town Hall,
Essex, CT for the purpose of endorsing can-
didates for the Republican Town Committee.
1/03/2022
1/4/22 7117741

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that Service Magic
Compeccial Cleaning, Inc. has been dis-
solved by action of the shareholders and
Board of Directors taken on December 20,
2021. Anyone having a claim against said
corporation is notified that information
regarding the nature of the claim and the
amount of the claim must be presented to
said corporation, %James Meehan, 33
Harvest Court, Newington, CT 06111. A
proceeding to enforce such claim must be
commenced within three years after the date
of the publication of this notice or it is forever
barred under the appropriate sections of the
Connecticut General Statutes
1/1/22 7119104

Connecticut

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
MIDDLESEX AT MIDDLETOWN DECEMBER
14, 2021, DOCKET NUMBER: CV21-
6031392-S EVERGREEN ASSOCIATES, LLC
v. CHRISTOPHER CERAMI, ADMINISTRATOR
FOR THE ESTATE OF KENNETH ANTHONY
MIRANDA, Pursuant to an order of the Court
dated December 14, 2021, a public sale of a
1969 Holiday Mobile Manufactured Home,
identification number 2960-11659, owned by
The Estate of Kenneth Anthony Miranda
shall be held at Site #82, 229 Killingworth
Turnpike, Clinton, Connecticut on January 18,
2022, at 10:30 a.m. Any person, including a
lien holder or the owner of the mobile man-
ufactured home park, may bid at the sale.
THE SALE WILL EXTINGUISH ALL PREVIOUS
OWNERSHIP AND LIEN RIGHTS. PLAINTIFF
BY: MICHAEL IACURCI, ITS ATTORNEY, 70
WALL STREET, MADISON, CT 06443, 203-
245-2400, JURIS #419094
12/28, 1/4, 1/11/2022 7107415

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police
Department is in possession of unclaimed
found property for which the owner cannot
be located.

If you believe that some of this property is
yours, please call the HPD Property Room at 860
757-4180 weekdays 7 A.M to 2:30 P.M. Be
prepared to provide a detailed description of
the property, the circumstances of its loss,
and proof of ownership as necessary.
Positive identification is required before prop-
erty will be released. If not claimed, items
may be sold at public auction, destroyed,
donated, or released to a finder.
1/4-3/29/2022 7112251

SPORTS CARDS WANTED Baseball,
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Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #143 Cairn Terrier, Tan &
White, Female. #144 Boxer Pitbull
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Hartford PD at 860-757-4000.

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Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **ANKUR A
PARIKH, 337 WILLARD AVE.** Have filed an
application placarded **12/29/2021** with the
Department of Consumer Protection for a
PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT for the
sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at
337 WILLARD AVE. The business will be
owned by ANKUR A PARIKH. Entertainment
will consist of: NONE Objections must be
filed by: 02/09/2022.

12/29/2021
ANKUR A PARIKH

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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Avon
Thomas H. Abraham
- Berlin
Alan R. Blankenburg
Henry Budney
Robert Story
Diane R. Wilk
- Bristol
Real Downing
David M. Neumann
Ralph R. Nuzzo
David S. Roberts
Frank H. Sturgeon
- Colchester
Ada G. Leff
- East Granby
Ruth B. White
- East Hartford
Darlene Sternberg
Diane R. Wilk
- Enfield
David E. Allberry
Joseph S. Ceresky
Joseph R. Cimino
Anthony F. Diorio
Anna Falkowski
Henry M. Gaffney
Stephen V. Rushford
Dennis P. Testoni
Barbara T. Yoon
- Granby
Tad L. Chamberlain
Ruth B. White
- Hartford
Ada G. Leff
Virginia S. Mccurdy
- Hebron
Allen D. Pinney
- Manchester
Richard Haugh
- New Britain
Violet Abrahamson
Deborah P. Keith
Maureen Labickas
Robert Story
Virginia Wallis
- Newington
Alan R. Blankenburg
Henry Budney
Warren D. Charette
Shirley A. Gagnon
Robert F. Muello
Jean Sarubbi
Ann S. Swabski
- Old Saybrook
John P. Rogers
- Other Towns in CT
Rita J. Goyen
Helen Mackiewicz
Virginia S. Mccurdy
Eugene Miller
Roger Miller
Barron E. Utter
Barbara T. Yoon
- Out of State
David S. Roberts
Stephen V. Rushford
- Plainville
Frank H. Sturgeon
- Rocky Hill
Catherine Laskowski
Robert F. Muello
- Simsbury
Burton M. Cunin
John P. Rogers
- Southington
Violet Abrahamson
Christopher W. Hauschild
Maureen Labickas
Roger Miller
- Tolland
Mark Naigles
- Torrington
Anthony F. Diorio
- Unionville
Ralph R. Nuzzo
- Vernon
Henry M. Gaffney
Darlene Sternberg
- Wallingford
Real Downing
- West Hartford
Burton M. Cunin
Ryszard W. Pas
John Szczepanik
- Wethersfield
Thomas H. Abraham
Joanne M. Brauner
- Windsor
Tad L. Chamberlain
Irene R. Fonseca
Allen D. Pinney
John Szczepanik
- Windsor Locks
Dennis P. Testoni
- OUT OF STATE
Thomas H. Abraham
Panama City, FL
Burton M. Cunin
Tucson, AZ

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Pas, Ryszard W.



Ryszard W. Pas, 61, of West Hartford, CT, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 30, 2021. He leaves behind his wife of 38 years Danuta Pas, his son Adam, daughter-in-law Chesleigh, and grandson Lukas, his son Chris and daughter-in-law Chelsea, mother Anna, sister Grazyna Kijas and brother-in-law Zenon, and many additional family members and friends in the United States and Poland. Ryszard was born March 30, 1960, in Zawiercie, Poland, the son of Anna and Wit Pas. From a young age, he was passionate about cars and fixing them. He graduated from a technical school in Poland as an automobile mechanic, working for several years in an auto garage before immigrating to the U.S. in October of 1981. His journey included a five month stay in Trattenbach, a village in Austria, before arriving in the U.S. on March 30, 1982, with his parents. Within a year of moving to the U.S., he met and married his wife, Danuta (née Lis) on November 5, 1983, in Hartford, CT at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Ryszard was a charismatic, gregarious, and caring person who would help anyone at any hour of the day or night. He enjoyed vacationing in Old Orchard Beach, Maine each year for the 4th of July and occasionally visiting Lake George in upstate New York with his family. He pursued his life-long passion and hobby of repairing cars. He was a dedicated employee for the past 20 years at FMI Chemical in E. Hartford, CT. Ryszard will be missed dearly by his family and friends. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation period on Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Duksa Family Funeral Home at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave. in Newington, CT. His funeral service will begin on Friday, January 8th, at 9 a.m. at Newington Memorial, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford, CT. He will be laid to rest at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield, CT. To leave a sympathy message for the family, please visit, www.duksa.net.



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Leff, Ada Goldberg



Ada Goldberg Leff, formerly of Colchester, Conn., died on Dec. 30 in Los Angeles, Calif., where she has lived for the last 60 years. Ms. Leff was born in Colchester on July 16, 1923, the daughter of Daniel (Zadel) and Rose Goldberg. She graduated from Bacon Academy and the University of Connecticut, and then earned her Ed.D. from Teachers College at Columbia University. She taught home economics and child development at the University of Connecticut and the University of Rhode Island, and New London Technical High School. She married Ernest Leff, also of Colchester, in 1954. They had a daughter, Laurel, in 1957 and a son, Andrew, in 1959. The family lived in Westport, Conn., until moving to Beverly Hills, Calif. in 1963. They returned to Connecticut every summer, staying at the family cottage on Amston Lake. Ms. Leff had her bat mitzvah at Ahavath Achim in Colchester in 2014 at the age of 91. Ms. Leff is survived by her daughter, Laurel Leff and son-in-law Jeremy Paul (Newton, Mass.), son Andrew Leff and daughter-in-law Shellie Elkind-Leff (Calabasas, Calif.), and her grandchildren Jason Paul, Russell Paul and his fiancé Leslie Diaz, Rebecca Leff and Jennifer Leff. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Marilyn Goldberg, her brother-in-law Sanford Leff, and many nieces and nephews to whom she was devoted. Ms. Leff was predeceased by her husband, Ernest, and her brothers, Bernard, Harold and Nathan Goldberg, and her sisters, Thelma Magun and Belle Rosenblum. The burial will be private due to Covid restrictions.

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OBITUARIES

Cunin, Burton M.



Dr. Burton Maurice Cunin of Simsbury, Connecticut, passed away on December 31st, 2021 at the age of 85. Burton was born in Allentown, PA in 1936 to Harry Cunin and Fay Getz Cunin. Harry was a country doctor and Burton knew by age five that he wanted to become a physician like his dad. Burton did his undergraduate work at Franklin & Marshall College, where he played clarinet with the marching band. He received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine and interned at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. In 1963, Burton married Ruth and enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan, where he served as a captain in the Medical Corps and where his son, Joseph, was born. In the following years Joseph was joined by siblings Elizabeth (Ellie) and Benjamin. Burton completed his residency in ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA in 1962. The family moved to Connecticut in 1969 and Burton began his medical practice in ophthalmology. Together with his partner, Dr. Malcom Roth, Burton opened the first outpatient eye surgery center in Connecticut. Burton loved sailing, and spent many weekends racing his J-boat and cruising. Burton also had a passion for travel and photography and spent spare time in his darkroom developing his own photographs. In 1984, Burton married the late Carol Susan Lazarus. Together they traveled the world and shared their love of art, music, and literature and were active patrons of the arts. Burton retired in 2007 and he and Carol split their retirement years between Simsbury, CT and their “heart’s home” of Tucson, AZ. Burton and Carol shared a love of entertaining and had many wonderful life long friends. Burton was predeceased by his beloved wife and soulmate, Carol. He leaves his son Joseph and his husband, Sylvan; his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Douglas, grandson Nathaniel and his fiancé, Lianne, granddaughter Kaitlin; son Benjamin and his partner Martha and granddaughter, Sofia and her fiancé Liam. Burton touched the lives of many patients with his professionalism, skills, and compassion. An enduring intellectual vigor, along with a love for fine dining and stimulating conversation engaged his many friends. He will always be remembered by those who loved him. Funeral services will be held graveside on Tuesday, January 4th at 2:00 at the Hartford Mutual Society Cemetery at 74 Wolcott Rd. in Simsbury, CT, with Rabbi James Rosen presiding. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Alzheimer’s Association or to the charity of your choice. Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary.

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McCurdy, Virginia S.



Cheshire - Virginia McCurdy, 98, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family members, on Friday, December 31, 2021, at MidState Medical Center, after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late William McCurdy, a Cheshire resident since 1963 and a communicant of St. Thomas Becket Church - St. Bridget of Sweden Parish since 1970. Mrs. McCurdy was born on April 28, 1923, in New Britain, the daughter of the late Joseph and Harriet (Cosgrove) Stagis. The family moved to Hamden when she was five years old. Upon graduation from Hamden High and Larsen’s Business college, she worked as a secretary in New Haven until her marriage in 1956. In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, Virginia graciously volunteered through the Mount Carmel Women’s Club, Girl Scouts and church. Her hobbies included skiing, gardening, needlework and spending time at the beach. She was never more delighted than when in the presence of her granddaughters and was thrilled to be able to attend Laura and Zachary’s wedding this past summer. Mrs. McCurdy is survived by her daughter Elizabeth Chotkowski and her husband Paul of Farmington; her grandchildren Sarah Chotkowski of Nantucket and Laura Fyfe and her husband Zachary of North Attleboro, a sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her sister Irene Hall and her brother-in-law Roger Hall. Arrangements - A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 11 am at St. Thomas Becket Church - St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, 435 N. Brooksvale Rd., Cheshire. Friends are asked to meet directly at church. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery, Hamden. The Alderson-Ford Funeral home of Cheshire is assisting with arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Mission of Waterbury, P.O. Box 1612, Waterbury, CT 06721. For online condolences, to share a photo or a story, please visit www.fordfh.com.

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Chamberlain, Tad L.



It is with the deepest of sadness we announce the passing of Tad Chamberlain, 64, after a valiant, courageous seven-year battle with cancer. Tad was the beloved husband of Vicki Chamberlain for 34 years. A great man of integrity with a remarkable work ethic, Tad loved nature, working outdoors, and working with wood to keep his family warm during the winter. Tad loved his parents’ farm in Pennsylvania where he spent much of his time as a little boy and as a grown man. In his youth, he had a passion for motorcycles, one he shared with many friends from Windsor High School. Even as these friends grew into young men, they would enjoy a “Boy’s Weekend” every June in Vermont. Tad was a dedicated and loving family man. He began his corporate career in 1982 as a University of Connecticut intern at The Travelers and worked for 39 years, retiring as an IT Manager at United Healthcare. Besides Vicki, Tad leaves behind his beloved son, Jason and his canine companion Emmy. He leaves behind his loving mother, Mary Ellen Chamberlain; his sister, Lt. Col. Crystal Nans, USMC, Ret. and her husband Jay Chambers; a brother-in-law, Bruce Brettschneider and his wife Sharon; his nieces and nephews, Adam Nans (Tanya), Lena Nans (Lt. Cdr. Kyle Kendall, USN), Elizabeth Brettschneider, Esq. (Mark Uhlemann), and Nathan Brettschneider (Irina); two baby great-nephews, Zane Nans and George Uhlemann; and a very special cousin, Eddie Gerould and his fiancé, Bernardette. He also leaves, Rae, Michael, Ryan, and Neil Eiklor. He was predeceased by his father, Zane Chamberlain. His family will receive friends on Thursday, January 6, 12 Noon-1 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. Burial will follow in Granby Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, 1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 1066, Washington, DC 20005. For online condolences to view the service live or after Thursday, January 6th at 1 p.m., please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Blankenburg, Alan R



Alan R. Blankenburg passed peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family on December 28th after a brief illness. He was born in 1938 and raised in New Britain, CT. He lived most of his life in Berlin before moving to Newington with his wife in 2015. He was predeceased by his parents, Margaret (Slaney) and Emil Blankenburg, and his brothers Richard and Robert Blankenburg. He was also predeceased by the love of his life, Patricia “Pat” (Sarra), in February 2020, after nearly 59 years of marriage. Al graduated from New Britain High School in 1956. He continued his studies at The University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music receiving his bachelor’s degree in music education in 1960. He went on to receive his master’s degree from Columbia University. His career as a music teacher spanned over 3 decades with the majority spent at Hartford High School where he taught music theory and served as band director. He also taught private lessons on woodwind instruments and played weekend gigs with the band Three’s a Crowd. He was a gifted musician, a patient teacher, and quick witted. He wrote personal welcome songs for each of his grandchildren. Rather than reading bedtime stories to his children, he made them up off the top of his head. The stories always included messages of empathy and human kindness. Fortunate to retire in his 50s, he was able to enjoy many years of power boating, traveling with his wife, cooking for family, and hosting annual family vacations which will continue under mom and dad’s watchful eyes for years to come. He was a member of the Berlin Congregational Church since 1967 and served as a deacon alongside his wife in past years. He is survived by his daughters, Sharon and her husband Roy Dellinger and Kim Blankenburg. He also leaves behind the lights of his life, his grandchildren: Patrick Duffany, Jr (Claire Nakoski), Cassidy Duffany (Mike Roller), and Morgan Duffany. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and his sisters and brother-in-law, Marie Blankenburg, Lynn Blankenburg and Lynne McCord (Ed McCord). Paul Shaker Funeral Home in New Britain will handle the arrangements. Al’s celebration of life will be held at the Berlin Congregational Church, 878 Worthington Ridge in Berlin on Saturday, January 8th at 11 am. Masks will be required. Due to the pandemic a repast will not be held. The family would like to acknowledge the services provided by Hartford Healthcare at Home Hospice, especially his nurses Joan and Sharon. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Berlin Congregational Church or a charity of the donor’s choice.

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Charette, Warren D.



Warren Douglas Charette, 76, passed away peacefully at home with his wife and family at his side December 31, 2021 after a difficult battle with supranuclear degenerative palsy. He was born to Zenon Charette and Claudia Theriault Charette on May 25, 1945 in Ashland, Maine. Warren grew up in Frenchville, Maine where he enlisted in the U.S. Army. While in uniform, he trained and served overseas in Germany as a communications specialist in the Army Signal Corps. A talented guitar player, he also played extensively on assignments with the USO. Warren returned stateside in 1965 and soon began working at Industrial Safety Supply Co. in West Hartford. From a warehouse stock clerk, he rose to Vice President of US Sales. He retired in 1995. Warren made lifelong friends wherever he went. He was the antique tool guy for many years at the Flea market at the Crossing in Plainville, but his passion was music. He played guitar in rock & roll, country and blue grass bands throughout his life. Warren was preceded in death by his parents Zenon and Claudia and his son Warren. Warren is survived by his wife Yvette, his son Mark and his wife Lisa, and his son David. He leaves his six grandchildren, Kelsey, Justin, John Mark, Amber, Jason and Alaina and his great grandson Peyton. He is also survived by his brother Wade, as well as several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Wounded Warrior Project, <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/default.aspx?tsid=10043>. His family is requesting that all guests wear masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday Jan 7, 2022 from 4-7 PM at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave in Newington. He will be laid to rest with military honors on Saturday, Jan 8, 2022 at 11 AM at West Meadow Cemetery Chapel, 679 Willard Ave in Newington. A special thank you to Evelyn and the caring medical staff at the Newington VA Medical Center and Hospice. To share a memory with his family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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Miller, Eugene



Eugene E. “Gene” Miller, 84, of Crestview, FL passed away Saturday, December 18, 2021. Gene was a native of Connecticut and was the third of five children born to the late Arthur Sr. and Lillian (Cross) Miller. He was a graduate of Windsor Locks High School and a Veteran of the U.S. Marines Corp. He was a retired employee of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company in Hartford with 30+ years of service. He was a member of the Freemasons; and a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville, CT. He and his wife, Jean, were also members of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Conway, SC while living in the area for 10+ years. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Dorothy Caronna and Judith Grayson; one brother, Marvin Miller; and one son, Keith Andrew.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Jean Mary Miller of Crestview, FL; a brother, Arthur Miller, Jr. of Texas; and children, Dawn Miller (Dennis) of Crestview, FL; Karen Damon of Winsted, CT; Pamela Lescell (Dreux) of Somers, CT; Hollis Erskine (Nadine) of Myrtle Beach, SC; and Keith Coons (Kimberly) of East Windsor, CT. He is also survived by six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services for Gene will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church at a future date to be determined. Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or other Veteran charities of your choice.

The Family wishes to thank the staff of PruittHealth Nursing facility in Milton, FL for the love and care given to their husband, father, brother, and grandfather during his time of illness.

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OBITUARIES

Diorio, Anthony F.



Anthony F. Diorio, 93, of Enfield, CT, passed away December 31, 2021. Anthony (Tony), son of Anthony and Marianna Diorio, originally from Torricella Peligna, Italy, was born on November 14, 1928, in Torrington, CT. Anthony is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Jo, and children, Janet Fortin and her husband, Richard, of Rome, NY, Linda Ekert and her husband, Peter, of New Providence, NJ, John Diorio and his wife, Monica, of Papillion, NE, and Paul Diorio of Enfield, CT, nine grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. In addition, his sister, Edith Lupucy of Torrington, CT, as well as several nieces and nephews. Anthony was preceded in death by his sister Anne Colaciello and brother Eugene Diorio of Torrington, CT. Anthony attended school in Torrington graduating from Torrington High School in 1946 where he was a first violinist (concert-master). After high school, he attended Oliver Wolcott Trade School and graduated with a Certificate in Electrical in 1949. Anthony worked locally before entering the United States Air Force in September 1950. Anthony was a Korean War veteran and was honorably discharged after completing four years in the military, including several months overseas. While in the Air Force, Anthony began his career in meteorology and continued his work with the National Weather Service for an additional 35 years, including his last 28 years at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT. Anthony met his wife of 64 years, Mary Jo Bancroft, at a church dance in Albany, NY and married on July 6, 1957, at Saint James Church in Carthage, NY. Together they lived in Enfield for 60 years where they brought up their children. Anthony was proud of his children. He and Mary Jo were blessed to have many years of enjoyment with them and their families. Anthony loved his work. He was adept in understanding Connecticut weather, and was on duty during many significant weather events, including the "Blizzard of 1978," the F4 Windsor Locks tornado in October 1979, and Hurricane Gloria in September 1985. Anthony could often be heard on various radio stations reporting local weather for the Hartford, CT area. Anthony also enjoyed the outdoors, including working in his yard and garden. He was an avid sports fan, loved cross-country skiing, and, especially, bowling. He bowled with a couple of teams, including a team from work at Bradley Bowl in Windsor Locks, CT for over 40 years. Anthony was a member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), American Meteorological Society (AMS), the Knights of Columbus, and Saint Bernard Church in Enfield, CT. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family for a viewing, Friday, January 7 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Leete Stevens Funeral Home, 61 South Road, Enfield, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 8 at 10:00 am at Saint Bernard Church, 426 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT. Burial will follow at Saint Bernard Cemetery, Park Street, Enfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jeanne Jugan Parish, 426 Hazard Ave, Enfield, CT 06082. For online condolences, please visit: www.leetesteevens.com

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Sarubbi, Jean (Bowers)



Jean Sarubbi, of Newington, passed away on January 1, 2022. Born in Hartford on August 22, 1928, she was the daughter of Howard and Ruth (Sullivan) Bowers. Jean was predeceased by her beloved husband of 59 years, John Sarubbi; by her twin sister Patricia Davis; her infant sister Barbara; and her brothers Howard and Francis. Jean grew up in Hartford and Bloomfield, attending the St. Joseph Cathedral School and Bloomfield High. She was one year old when the stock market crashed, and the Great Depression shaped her childhood memories. As a teenager during World War II, Jean watched her older brothers and their friends leave for Europe and filled scrapbooks with news of the war. She said that when FDR died, she thought the world would end. Instead, the war ended and she graduated from high school. In 1949, Jean and her brother's friend John married, started a family and built their home on Sunset Road in Newington, CT. A homemaker while her children were young, Jean volunteered for community groups including the PTA and Scouts. She went back to work in the 1960s, holding various jobs in the Newington School system. Her favorite was the last, at John Patterson Elementary School, where she worked in the office, mothered the students and made lifelong friends. Jean and John were avid hikers and campers throughout their marriage. After retirement they traveled across America twice, as well as to Italy. Jean made a special trip to Ireland in 2017, visiting the town from which her Sullivan great-grandparents emigrated in 1861. Jean was a wonderful role model for living well. She was a lifelong learner who over the years outgrew her diffidence and became eager for adventure. She loved to cook and was fearless about trying out new recipes on guests. For many years she took great joy in meeting with her crafting group and singing with a senior choir that performed at local nursing homes and schools. She was a talented knitter and voracious reader who loved doing jigsaw puzzles and watching Jeopardy. She was also a dedicated swimmer who trained for a mile-long charity swim at age 80 and kept fit doing laps in her friends' pool. What made Jean happiest was time spent with people she loved. Jean is survived by her daughter Nancy and son Felix, and their spouses Paul Osgood and Carol Sarubbi; her beloved granddaughters and their spouses Lisa and Dennis Boba, Dana and Joshua Trotta; and her precious great-grandchildren Freya Boba and Owen Trotta. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, who were dear to her and treasured her as the last of her generation. Nancy and Felix would like to extend special thanks and deep appreciation to cousins, friends, and neighbors on Sunset Road - the village that embraced Jean, loved her spirit and made it possible for her to live long and happily in her family home. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 8:30 am to 9:30 am at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am at St. Mary's Church, 626 Willard Ave., Newington. She will be laid to rest beside her husband in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Memorial donations may be made in Jean's name to the Newington Senior and Disabled Center, 120 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111. To share a memory with the family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

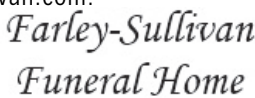


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Laskowski, Catherine



Catherine Laskowski, a long-time resident of Rocky Hill, CT, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. She was born on October 27, 1937 at Hartford Hospital. She was a survivor of the famous Hartford Circus Fire of 1944. She worked for Paul Panebianco, a builder, for over 50 years until his passing. She was married to Stanley Wisniewski, with whom she had a baby boy, who sadly passed away at three days old. Catherine Laskowski, a longtime resident of Rocky Hill, CT, passed on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. She was born on October 27, 1937 at Hartford Hospital. She was a survivor of the famous Hartford Circus Fire of 1944. She worked for Paul Panebianco, a builder, for over 50 years until his passing. She was married to Stanley Wisniewski, with whom she had a baby boy, who sadly passed away at three days old. Catherine, affectional known as Cathy, was a loving, kind, and caring person. She leaves behind her two cats, Smokey and Kit. Numerous caring friends and family members, including her nephew David Bentley, and his wife, Sue; her niece Deborah Wisneski, her husband Doug, and their family of Berlin; and her long-time physician, Dr. Sukhwant M. Sethi, and his wife of Simsbury, will remember Cathy. Friends may call from 8:30 to 9:30 am on Friday, January 7, 2022 at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Catherine's life will take place at 10:00am on Friday, January 7, 2022 in Corpus Christi Church of Christ the King Parish, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, and Catherine's love for cats, please make a donation made to Connecticut Cat Connection, 40 Stevens Mill Road, Windsor, CT 06095. Burial will follow in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield. To extend condolences please visit FarleySullivan.com.



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Muello, Robert Francis



Robert Francis Muello, 85, who lived in Newington most of his adult life and grew up in the Boston suburbs, passed through the pearly gates on Friday, December 31, 2021 surrounded by his four children. Robert was son to the late William and Madeline Muello (Picardi) of Arlington, MA. He was also predeceased by his brother Billy, who we're certain made sure he crossed over before midnight so they could toast to the New Year together! Robert had many nicknames Bobby Boy, Moose and The Papster to name a few. He is survived by his four children; Monica Muello, Robert Muello Jr., Laura Muello, Valerie Bertoline and her husband Dominick, his ex-wife Marcia "Mimi" Lamparelli, his brothers: Richard and Paul Muello, both of MA, and three grandchildren: Alanna Noël, Luke Robert and Chase Douglas. He grew up in Arlington with three brothers. Life at 69 Newport Street would shape his personality and character traits, creating the most loyal, competitive, charismatic individual the town would forever know as Moose Muello. Voted most popular and most athletic, he was a show-stopper for sure. Number 30 on the football field, he was a force to be reckoned with. Scholastically, after graduating from AHS, he attended a year at Cheshire Academy to prep him for top ranked Bates College in Maine where he majored in Psychology and played football. He also proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. With that sly grin and sparkle in his eye, he could charm the pants off just about anyone he encountered. In business, regardless of where he worked, as a Sales Manager with Pro Brush or upscale Nordstrom, he was always a top producer and very successful. In the archives, we recently found a letter a customer at Nordstrom wrote to Corporate "complaining" about his recent in-store experience. He went to the mall for a 3-pack of socks that cost \$10 and ended up leaving with underwear, t-shirts, two dress shirts, handkerchiefs and a really stupid yellow tie that cost \$260! His favorite things in life weren't things at all. He loved his family truly and deeply. He loved his friends and son-in-law: Stevie C., Paulie A. and Dom. He kept his circle tight and would give the shirt off his back for those in that circle. One of his favorite things to do was watch a game with the boys and eat pizza pepperoni and onion, extra crispy. When it came to sports, especially the Patriots, he was like Rainman. He literally knew every single statistic of every NFL game, as well as every player inside and out.... And we're fairly certain even he had a secret crush on Tom Brady just like the rest of us. And he just HAD to have a Hershey's chocolate bar with almonds during every Patriots game. Pappy was a very proud Grandfather, ensuring his 3 grandchildren were the best dressed kids around. He was always first to arrive for Sunday dinners, hockey games and important activity and school functions. Alanna will always cherish her add-a-pearl necklace from Pappy. He is guiding Chase and Luke's college choices with purpose. He had the confidence of a warrior and the most infectious laugh. He always "lightly tapped" the bumper of the car in front of him while parking. His favorite meal was the Wagyu steak at Ruth's Chris Steak House, which he either intentionally or unintentionally pronounced Ragu. He believed he was the Founding Father of his favorite beach, Mayflower, on the Cape. Sitting under his purple umbrella, listening to the sounds of summer and watching the sunset ... that was his happy place. He didn't have a handy bone in his body. He swore up a storm every summer while installing the air conditioners. He watched 60 Minutes every Sunday. He wasn't fond of pets. Bobby Boy was ALWAYS the best dressed man in the room. Loud, charming, gregarious, and bigger than life. That sums up Robert Francis Muello. He was THE BEST. Save us a seat at the table Dad Our Hero, Our Father, Our Protector, Our Friend. A time of visitation will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield, concluding with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. Burial with military honors will be held at a later date. The D'Esopo Funeral Chapel was entrusted with arrangements.



D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Story, Robert "Bob"



A legend left us on New Years' Eve. He served his country, helped his friends, and supported the community. He was an attentive husband and father to a wife, three daughters and a son, he helped all those around him, and somehow found time to build the best damn garage in town. The irrepressible Robert A. Story drew his last breath on December 31, 2021, surrounded by family. He leaves a loving and devoted family and a legacy of service to friends and community. Most days Bob could be found at Story Brothers, Inc. building his business. He treated his employees as family, providing meals and sometimes his own homemade delicacies. He took a personal interest in his customers and gave them his utmost respect. He knew how to get things done. Bob was an attentive and loving grandfather to his six grandchildren. He coached his grandsons to World Soapbox and Pinewood Derby finals. Fishing, swimming, earning scout badges, building legos, cook-outs, driving lessons and general tomfoolery. (Properly motivated he could be convinced to moon a camera). Bob was a generous man. No matter what the occasion, there was always an extra welcoming seat at the Story family dinner table. Bob loved a good party. He and Sandy and loved to travel. They travelled the world together. With Bob, all you needed was a tuxedo and a passport. An eternal optimist and racing enthusiast, Bob would greet any setback by quoting Richard Petty and saying "Don't worry, we'll get 'em next Sunday".

To all who knew him well, Bob was larger than life, and the essence of what he did and what he taught survives him and thrives.

Robert "Bob" Story, 80, of Kensington, husband of Sandra "Sandy" (Barillaro) Story, passed away peacefully Friday (December 31, 2021) at the Hospital of Central CT in New Britain. A native and former New Britain resident, son of the late Alexander and Mary (Karvoski) Story, Bob is a graduate of New Britain High School Class of 1959 and received a Bachelor's Degree in Business from The University of Hartford. Bob served in the US Army Reserve. He has lived in Kensington since 1967. He owned and operated Story Brothers Auto in New Britain since 1960. He was a member of St. Paul's Church in Kensington.

Besides his wife Sandy, he leaves a son, Emanuel "Manny" Story of Berlin; three daughters, Kristine Story; Laura Martin and her husband Jonathan; and Kathryn Spilka and her husband Dean, all of Berlin; six grandsons, Zachary, Andrew and Nicholas Martin; and Samuel, Jack and Robert Trent Spilka. He was predeceased by a sister, Lucille Michaud.

A Memorial Mass will be held Friday (January 7, 2022) 10 AM DIRECTLY at St. Paul's Church, 479 Alling Street, Kensington, CT 06037. Burial will follow in South Burying Ground, Berlin. Calling hours are Thursday 4 to 7 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Donations may be made to St. Paul Church or to the American Stroke Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com



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Gaffney, Henry Michael



Henry Michael Gaffney, 75, of Vernon, CT., passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021 after a brief illness. Henry – "Hank" to his family and friends – is survived by his beloved wife of 24 years Doreen; sons Michael and his wife Leah, Daniel and his wife Rosemary, Christopher and his wife Jenny, Jason and his wife Veronica and Joseph and his wife Nicole; 10 grandkids; and many siblings, nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his parents Henry Michael Gaffney and Veronica (Hughes) Gaffney, sister Kathleen (Gaffney) Chapman and his in-laws who he thought the world of, Jack and Doris Blatchford. Hank grew up in the Bronx and spent some of his happiest times at his family's house on Knollwood Beach in Huntington, Long Island. After catching the eye of a military recruiter who spotted him beating up hippie war protesters, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 19. He served in the Vietnam War, receiving an honorable discharge after one tour of duty. He was very proud of his military service, although his feelings about the administration tasked with removing troops from Vietnam were more nuanced. Hank returned stateside with new perspective and a renewed dedication to his schoolwork and career, earning a BS degree in economics at the City University of New York. A dedicated manager who earned the respect and admiration of co-workers, Hank held several positions in New York City and Connecticut at the Travelers Insurance Co. Responsibilities at Travelers included the adjustment and supervision of workers compensation claims and he served as the workers compensation claim unit manager in the Hartford field office from 1982 to 1997. Hank joined the Connecticut State Treasury Department in 1998 as the claims unit manager for the Second Injury Fund a position he held until his well-deserved retirement in 2021. Hank enjoyed nothing more than spending time with family. He was a devoted husband to Doreen and dedicated father to his five sons, always looking forward to the annual trip to Cape Cod surrounded by loved ones where he regaled anyone who would listen to his (sometimes too long) stories that showcased his sharp wit and dry sense of humor. Easygoing by nature, Hank was a great role model to his children and grandkids in how he treated others with respect and worked tirelessly to provide for his family. As hard as he worked, he always found time when his boys were growing up to attend their baseball, basketball and hockey games – without fail. Plans to retire were pushed off each year until to Doreen's delight he finally called it a career last February. In his downtime he could often be found watching an episode of PTI or turning on CNN while he relaxed on the recliner. He died with a better head of hair than several of his sons, much to their dismay. A wake and memorial service to remember Hank will be held at a later date, likely in the spring. Browne Memorial Chapels, Enfield has been entrusted with arrangements. To leave an online condolence message visit: www.brownememorialchapels.com

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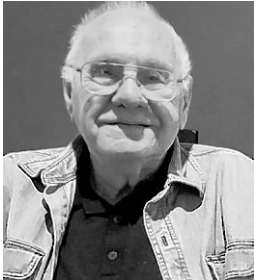


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OBITUARIES

Downing, Real "Ray"



Real "Ray" Downing, 96, of Bristol, husband of Susan Powers, passed away on Dec. 27, 2021 at home. Born on March 28, 1925 in Shemogue, New Brunswick, Canada, he was a son of the late William and Natalie (Duguay) Downing. Ray's family emigrated from New Brunswick, Canada to Wallingford, CT where Ray grew up attending Holy Trinity School. Ray owned ACME Service Corporation for over 50 years with his longtime friend and former brother-in-law Thomas Daly. Together, they kept windows, floors and facilities shining throughout numerous businesses in CT. Ray was an active ham radio operator in CT (K1ERL) and FL (W4MCK) for many years. He facilitated many ship-to-shore calls for military service members connecting them with family and friends stateside. Ray was a faithful Red Sox fan and liked to watch his favorite golfers on the PGA tour. He also enjoyed rolling the dice at casinos in Nevada, New Jersey, and Connecticut while experiencing fine cuisine and talented entertainers. While Ray's family mourns his loss, we are grateful for the gift of his life. His life brought joy, love and special memories that we celebrate. Besides his wife Susan, Ray is survived by his daughters Mary Downing of Bristol, Jean Downing (Patrick McCabe) of Bonita Springs, FL, and Amy (Herdlein) Griffing (Josh) of Simsbury; his grandsons Louis and Zachary Griffing, and several nieces and nephews. Ray was predeceased by his son Jon Downing, his siblings Genevieve Morris, Esther Stewart, Robert, Joseph and Emery Downing, and his first wife Patricia (Daly) Downing. Ray's family wishes to thank Always Best Care, Companions & Homemakers and Bristol Hospital Home Care and Hospice. The staff, nurses, home health aides and social workers of those agencies provided care, support, and encouragement to Ray and his wife. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 at 2pm at DuPont Funeral Home, 25 Bellevue Ave., Bristol. Calling hours will be from 12-2pm prior to the funeral service. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. For those attending the services, masks and/or face coverings are recommended. In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489. Family and friends are invited to leave a condolence message by visiting www.dupontfuneralhome.com

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Haugh, Richard



On December 30th 2021, Richard A. Haugh, 68, An amazing father, brother, son, and friend left this world. Richard Alan Haugh, who was known to others as Ricky, Richy, Starch, and Archie, transitioned on to a better place leaving his family and friends too soon. Richard was born on November 14, 1953 at Manchester Memorial Hospital to the late Russell Haugh Sr. and Margaret "Swain" Haugh. Rich spent his childhood and early adulthood growing up in the town of East Hartford and eventually graduating from George J. Penney High School Class of 1972. After hearing all the stories over these past few days of his mischief and his frequency to skip class this seemed like "quite the feat". In 1981 and 1982, Rich became a father to his pride and joy, his two cherished sons, Gregory R., and Eric Haugh. Up until the moment he passed, Rich was the most genuine, caring, and dedicated father. He started his career as a Glastonbury Police Officer, and eventually settled into his true calling with the security field. He worked more than 15 years for Diebold and was the jack of all trades. After leaving Diebold in 2012, he started his own company called Richard Haugh Security. He loved working for his bank clients and developed many relationships with them for the rest of his life. Aside from his family and friends, he was quite proud of the house he built by himself where he raised his family on West Street in Bolton. As recently as Fathers Day 2021, Rich and his son Eric took one of their many restaurant trips to a pizza restaurant right past the Bolton house. The majority of the conversation that night was how proud he was of building it. Over the years, Rich took part in many organizations such as Hartford Harley Owners Group where he was named "Road Captain". He was passed president of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders as riding a motorcycle which was a passion he loved. He also was a proud member of the Washington L.O.L. Orange Lodge, Member of the Friendship Tuscan 145 in Manchester, CT, and also the Valley of Hartford Scottish Rite. A final passion Rich shared was his love of fire-arms to which he was an avid gun collector and enjoyed shooting on the range of the Glastonbury Elks with his son Gregory and numerous friends. For the last 20 plus years he resided in Manchester, CT and could be seen sitting on his porch almost daily with a glass of Evan Williams bourbon and a lit cigar in his mouth rain or shine. If you couldn't find him on the porch he was either at Highland Park market grocery store shopping or Shady Glen eating breakfast. The birth of his two grandchildren, Evelyn and Connor Haugh, made him a proud grandfather. He loved his grandchildren endlessly and he will be missed greatly by them. Aside from his grandchildren, Rich leaves behind his son Gregory Haugh and partner Kacey LeVasseur of Hebron, CT, Eric Haugh and partner Kaitlin Douglas of East Hartford, CT, brother and sister in law Russell Jr. and Jane Haugh of Coventry, CT, and Aunt Patricia Zatkowski of Manchester, CT. He also leaves numerous extended family members and friends, as well as friends who were like family including Sal Cesare and Bob McDonald. We know Rich will keep the party going in heaven until we meet again. Calling Hours will be held at Holme-Watkins 400 Main St Manchester, CT 06040, Thursday January 6, 2022 5-7pm. Burial will be private.

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Miller, Roger



Roger Thomas Miller, 64, of Cheshire, passed away at his home on Thursday, December 30, 2021. He was born June 28, 1957 in Southington and was the son of late Arthur Alvin and Nancy (Lefevre) Miller. Roger was employed by Abilities without Boundaries of Cheshire for many years. He participated in the Special Olympics, he was an avid bowler, loved dancing, music, cheeseburgers and hot fudge sundaes. Roger is survived by his brother, Ted Miller and his wife Lori and their son Ted Jr. of Plantsville; a sister Barbara Moshier and her daughter Holly Moshier of Plainville. He also leaves his longtime caregivers Herb and Karen Brooks and their family of Cheshire. He was predeceased by his niece Danielle Miller. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Jan. 6th from 5-6 p.m. at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington. A funeral service will immediately follow. Burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Arch of Southington, 201 West Main St., Plantsville, CT 06479. For online condolences and directions please visit, www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

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Sternberg, Darlene (LaPier)



Darlene (LaPier) Sternberg, 68, of Vernon, passed away on Sunday, January 2, 2022, after a valiant battle with cancer. Born in Hartford, the daughter of the late Arthur and Vivian (Avery) LaPier, she grew up in East Hartford before moving to Manchester to raise her family, and most recently lived in Vernon. She was a nurse for over forty years, having worked in the ICU at St. Francis Hospital, the Visiting Nurse Association of Glastonbury, and at The McAuley in West Hartford. Darlene earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from St. Joseph's University in West Hartford. She was an active member of Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor. Darlene touched many lives during her time with us. Nursing was the perfect career for such a kind and compassionate soul. Those mourning her passing include her son Jason Smith and his wife Jill of South Windsor, her daughter Nikki Burinskas and Nikki's partner Tim Mulligan of Vernon, her sister Robin Borek of Enfield, as well as numerous cousins and friends. Darlene, better known as Nana, will be greatly missed by grandchildren William Swain, Cianan Mulligan, Saige Mulligan, Brooke Burinskas, Zachary Smith and Makayla Smith. In addition to her parents, Darlene was predeceased by her former husband Steven Sternberg and by her brother-in-law Allan Borek. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Road, South Windsor with Rabbi Jeffrey Glickman officiating. Burial will follow at Beth Olam Cemetery, Edith Road, South Windsor. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Darlene's honor may be made to Temple Beth Hillel Endowment Fund, 20 Baker Lane, South Windsor, CT 06074 or to the American Cancer Society. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Utter, Barron E.



Barron E. Utter, 62, of Stafford Springs, CT, passed away on Friday, December 31, 2021 at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Hartford, CT, son of the late Norman Utter and Joan (Hopkins) Courtright. Barron was employed by CIGNA as a Technical Support Advisor. He was on the Stafford Recreation Commission for many years, and was a member of the Italian Benefit Society. Barron was the president/coordinator and a coach for Stafford Youth Softball for many years. One of his proudest moments was having "Utter Field" at Hyde Park named after him for his dedication and service to the program. Barron is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Kathy (Butler) Utter; two daughters, Kelly Utter and her partner Ian Learned, and Tori Ford and her husband Tim; his grandson to be; brother, Don Utter and his wife Randa; step mother, Jan Utter; step brother, John McGuire; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Roger and Lynn Butler, and Doreen and Kevin Dietz; nieces and nephews, Tyler and Erika Dietz, Brian Butler, and Tara and Dave Middleton. He was predeceased by his brother, Gerald Utter; step brother, Steve McGuire; and nephew, Garrett Dietz. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 3-6 P.M., with a funeral service to take place at 6 P.M., at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will be held privately. Memorial donations may be made to Stafford Little League, P.O. Box 41, Stafford, CT 06075. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com



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Szczepanik, John



John "Jack" Szczepanik, 82, of Windsor transitioned home to the Lord on December 27, 2021. Born September 22, 1939, son of the late Police Sgt. John J. Szczepanik and Katherine (Zytynska) Szczepanik late of West Hartford; he was the loving husband of Sandra Jane (Przybyszewski aka Probus) Szczepanik for 55 years. Loving father to Karen Hill Riley of PA and her husband the late Robert Riley and John "Greg" Szczepanik of Windsor; grandfather to "Frederick" John Hill, Brady Hill, Ryan Szczepanik, and Mackenzie Hill; brother to Paula Szczepanik of Windsor; uncle to John and Tim Preski, Diane Gros-Louis; and cousin to many throughout FL and CT. He graduated from Hall High School in 1952, UCONN, and Harford Institute of Accounting. He was an Auditor for 30 years with the United States Department of Agriculture. He also served for 25 years in the CT Air National Guard retiring as a Master Sargent. Jack loved traveling to visit his grandchildren and being part of their lives. He even dressed as Tigger and Sandra as Pooh for one of their birthday parties. He was an avid golfer and bowler. His passion was playing the Lowrey Organ especially old melodies and Polish music. He also played the accordion, keyboard, harmonica, banjo, concertina, and slide but perfecting in the organ. He laughed so much watching the faces of his children, then grandchildren when Santa appeared delivering presents as the children hid under the dining room table. Thank you to all who had the fortunate job of sipping milk (?) and eating cookies. Jack was the "encyclopedia" before google for friends and family. He faithfully attended St. Gabriel's Church at the Saturday, 4 PM Mass, then stopping for dinner, then back to his home with friends to play cards and have desert. Jack was a very kind person and always thought of others before himself. He will be sorely missed. We would like to thank ALL who helped keep Jack at home, after his TBI three years ago: Dr. Matthew Colliton and Joy, Dr. Phyllis Grable-Esposito and Marlena, Dr. Rosati, and most grateful thanks to McLean Hospice: Susan, Leah, Cassandra, Judy, and Linda: and most especially our friend and earthly angel Dolores McGuinness. His family will receive friends Friday, January 7, 2022, from 5-8 PM at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor and again Saturday January 8, from 10:30-11:30 AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:00 PM at St. Damien of Molokai Parish, St. Gabriel's Church, 379 Broad Street, Windsor. A reception will follow the Mass. Burial with military honors will be in the CT State Veterans Cemetery at the convenience of the family. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Cimino, Joseph R



Joseph R. Cimino (Joey), 32, died on December 25, 2021 in Enfield, Connecticut. He was the son of Sandra Cimino and his late father, Joseph D. Cimino. At 11 years old, Joey learned he had epilepsy. While you'd expect someone with this diagnosis to choose a cautious life, Joey wasn't one for caution. Epilepsy didn't stop him from climbing trees, swimming in the deep end, wrestling above his weight class, staying out too late, and getting the brightest tattoos. This determination to live fully may have cost his family some sleep here and there but added undeniable quality to Joey's limited years. Joey was never short of smiles, jokes (often at his siblings' expense), and the tightest hugs around. Joey loved working outside, spending too much money on cognac, and listening to music at full blast. Most of all, he loved his family and his friends. Joey was incredibly close with his father Joseph and the two spent many nights talking around the fire. Joey is survived by his mother Sandra, who was a dedicated caretaker until his final day. He is survived by his siblings: Emma Cimino, Hope Cimino and her partner Larry, Jack Cimino and his wife Priscilla and their children Raphael and Ezra; his grandparents: Barbara and Robert Raccone and Hope and Bruce Albee; his aunts and uncles: Lynn and Seth Seidel, Lori and David Stevens, Sharon Shaw, Mark and Terrie Marino, and Robert Shaw; and by countless cousins, including his first cousins Ben, Danielle, Alex, Stephanie, Max, Jenna, Dylan, and Rachel. Joey was predeceased by his father Joseph, his uncle Bruce, and his grandfather Joseph. We are grateful to Joey for the love he shared with us and for the reminder that life is worth living no matter your circumstances. Given the current state of the pandemic, a celebration of life will be held in the spring. For online condolences, please visit www.leetestevens.com.

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Fonseca, Irene R. (Rice)

Irene (Rice) Fonseca, 91, of Windsor, beloved wife for 68 years of Raul John Fonseca, passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2021. She was born in the Poquonock section of Windsor on October 20, 1930, daughter of the late Joseph and Martha (Egelevich) Rice. She was a graduate of John Fitch High School, Class of 1949 and was a lifelong resident of Windsor, and dedicated communicant of St. Joseph Church. She was employed at Kernan Agency as an insurance agent for 25 years. Irene loved traveling to far off destinations and was an avid traveler, she would say - "if you are given the opportunity to go somewhere then go." Out of all of her travels she loved taking vacations with her family to Myrtle Beach, and taking early morning walks along the beach. Irene had a green thumb and her vegetable and flower gardens reflected it. She loved movie nights with her family and the old westerns held a special place in her heart. Besides her husband Raul, she leaves a daughter Sharon I. Fonseca of Windsor, and a daughter Susan I. Fonseca of Windsor as well as many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by three brothers Adam, Charles, and Anthony Rice, and four sisters Mary Holley, Frances Kosiorek, Alice Mozur, and Louise Stankevich. Her family will receive friends on Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. at the Carmon Poquonock Funeral Home, 1816 Poquonock Avenue, Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 7, 2022, beginning at 11 a.m. at St. Damien of Molokai Parish- St. Joseph Church, 1747 Poquonock Ave., Windsor. Guests are asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Windsor. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph Church Remembrance Fund, 379 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095 or ORTV 15 Peach Orchard Road, Prospect, CT 06712. To leave an online message of condolence for her family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Testoni, Dennis P



Dennis P. Testoni, 68, of Windsor Locks, beloved husband of Claire Brachmann Testoni, passed into the arms of the Lord at his home surrounded by his wife and family on Thursday Dec. 30, 2021. He was born on August 11, 1953 in Springfield, MA, son of the late Alphonse and Penelope (Agnos) Testoni. Dennis was a graduate of Enfield High School, Asnuntuck Community College, Western New England College (B.A.) and the UCONN Paralegal Certificate Program. He was a retired State of Connecticut DMV Road Test Agent. Dennis was a skydiving instructor for 20 years at Connecticut Parachutists in Ellington, CT. In addition to his wife Claire, Dennis leaves behind to mourn his loss his brothers and sisters: Faith Gentile and husband Tony Sr., Louise McGuinness and husband Brian, Steve Testoni and wife Kathy, Al Testoni, Penelope Rezendes and husband Robert, along with many nieces and nephews and his best friend Bill Babbitt. Dennis was predeceased by his brother, Malcolm "Mac" Testoni. Dennis was a light to all the people who knew him and performed many acts of random kindness. Dennis loved people and being surrounded by family and friends. He also loved to travel the world skydiving in the UK and Spain. Dennis traveled to Egypt and Hawaii with his beloved wife. The angels have given Dennis wings. Dennis's family will receive family and friends from 4 to 6 pm on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St, Windsor Locks, 06096. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 52 S Main St., Windsor Locks. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family. Donations in Dennis' memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association. For online condolences please visit: www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com

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Budney, Henry "Hank"



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Henry "Hank" "Butch" Budney of Berlin. Relatives and friends are invited to his funeral service to be held on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, at 12 noon, at West Meadow Cemetery, 679 Willard Ave., Newington. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is serving the family. To view his complete obituary please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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OBITUARIES

Swabski, Ann S. (Falcetti)



Ann S. Swabski, 89, of Newington, passed away on Monday, December 27, 2021 at her home. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard V. Swabski. Born in Hartford, daughter of the late Claudio and Erminia (Fumiatti) Falcetti, she graduated from West Hartford Schools prior to settling in Newington over 35 years ago. Ann was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church, Newington and retired from Holo-Krome after many years of employment. A loving aunt, she leaves her nieces Janet Gross, and Karen Falcetti, her nephew, Martin Osterling, her great niece Kelly Kessel and other nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Dena Osterling, Joseph Falcetti, Alyce Bonadies, Irma Selfridge and Mary Valeggia. A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, January 4th, at 1:00 pm at West Meadow Cemetery, 679 Willard Ave., Newington. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington is serving her family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association at www.heart.org. To share a memory, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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Roberts, David S

Dave Roberts died at his home in Pulaski, PA on December 9th, 2021. He was 80 years old and died of natural causes. Dave was born in Bristol, Ct. to Donald and Marjorie Deloy Roberts. He was preceded in death by his Dad, Mom, and sister Susan R. Millbury of Unionville Ct. He is survived by his wife Evelyn Roberts of Pulaski PA, nieces, Sheri Millbury of N. Yarmouth ME, Shannon M. Zagorski of Bristol CT and a brother Roy. Dave worked in the harness racing business for many years working on many farms and at many tracks. He bred and raced some of his own horses. Dave loved Harleys, horses and a good time. He is now, and will be missed.

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Gagnon, Shirley Ann (Eckert)



Shirley Ann (Eckert) Gagnon, 76, of Newington, passed away on Friday, December 31, 2021 peacefully at home with her family by her side. She was the beloved wife of Perley L. Gagnon for 60 years. Daughter of the late Raymond and Hilda (Deutsch) Eckert, she was a lifelong Newington resident and parishioner of the Church of Christ, Congregational. Shirley owned and operated her family business, Eckert's Package Store on the Berlin Turnpike for many years along with assisting her husband with his business, Perley L. Gagnon Electric, Inc. Shirley was outgoing and adventurous. She enjoyed fishing, boating and Block Island. She spent time knitting, crocheting and gardening. Above all things, she loved her family. Her grandchildren were the light of her life. Along with her husband Perley, she leaves her five children, Raymond and his wife Kathy, Laurie Bennett and her husband Michael, Dawn Gagnon, Sherie Chapman and her husband K.C., and Wayne and his wife Kris. She also leaves nine grandchildren, Meghan Kothari and her husband Soor, Danielle, Hayley, Emma, Riley, Timmy, Cooper, Wyatt and Zach, and one great granddaughter, Ella. She was predeceased by her infant son, Duane. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday, January 7th, from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, followed by a service at 7:30 pm, at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. Burial will be private in Center Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at donate3.cancer.org. To share a memory or condolence with her family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.



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Wilk, Diane R



Diane Renee Wilk (Di, Di Babe), 61, died unexpectedly Dec. 29, 2021 at Hartford Hospital. Born on May 10, 1960 in Hartford, CT she was the daughter of Edward W. and Elizabeth A. (Bogus) Wilk. Diane was a graduate of Berlin High School and Central Connecticut State University. She was an avid women's basketball fan, tennis player, folk/country guitarist, and music fan. She loved lighthouses and enjoyed an occasional trip to the casino or Cape Cod. She was formerly employed by Colonial Realty and Parrotta Management. Diane is survived by her sisters, Elizabeth A. Wilk of Agawam, MA, Sharon W. Rackliffe of East Hartford; niece, Jill E. Rackliffe of Boston; nephew, James R.F. Rackliffe, his wife, Carolyn; their daughter Finlay, and son, Weston of Farmington; cousins Jeffrey Wilk of Woodland Park, CO; Joan Kayser (Wilk) of Chesapeake, VA; and Jean Trakinat (Wilk) of Ewa Beach, HI. A celebration of life is planned for the spring. Those who wish to remember Diane may make a donation in her memory to One Tree Planted <https://onetreeplanted.org>.

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Keith, Deborah P.



Deborah P. Keith (Deb) Age 77 passed away on December 23, 2021 in Hartford, After Courageous battle with cancer. Visitation will not be held due to the pandemic going on. Debbie was born September 7, 1944 in Connecticut the daughter of Fredrick and Jane Pearson. Debbie married her soulmate and soldier Joseph Sr on September 13, 1969 in Wethersfield. Deb and Joseph Sr moved to Mansfield to start their life as a couple and raise their family. Deb is survived by her loving husband, Joseph Sr of Farmington; son Joseph Keith Jr. (Jr) and wife Samantha, of Texas; Her fur babies Tiger and Gretchen. Her fur grandchildren, MaciRiley, Sasha, Munchie, Macleod, sugar; Sister, Sarah and Bill Burke, of Wethersfield; Brothers, Doug Pearson of Wethersfield, Fred Pearson 3rd and wife Lou of West Virginia; Sister-in-law Dona Beach of Las Vegas and numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

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Pinney, Allen D

Allen Pinney passed away this Christmas Eve at his home in Hebron. He was 94. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara Emmons and her husband, Michael, of Amston, his son, Edward and his wife, Vanina, of Cambridge, NY, his daughter-in-law, Carole Pinney, of Madison, and his brother, Gordon and his wife, Lettie, of Langhorne, PA. He also leaves behind seven wonderful grandchildren and their spouses, Morgan Pinney (Daniel Smithwick), Kieran (Nicole) Pinney, Shelley (Michael) Buckley, Rainger Pinney (Harriet Dixon), Reed Emmons (Kristina Schwartz), Loryn (Francis) Cabrera and Chandon (Moises) Rodriguez, and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, his son, Selby, his parents, Edward and Marion (Lennox), and his sisters, Loretta Nelson and Marion Headley. Al participated in the Navy V-12 program after graduating from Columbia HS in East Greenbush, NY and following his service in the US Navy, received a B.S. from St. Lawrence University. He began his 39 year actuarial career at the Travelers Insurance Co in 1953. He and Dot moved to Windsor in 1958 where they raised their family and spent the next 55 years. Professionally, Al was a proud Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society. He was also a loving husband, father and grandfather; a Sunday school teacher, a Little League coach, a Scout leader, an accomplished horseshoe player and statistician; and finally a great-grandfather, a role that brought him light and joy in his later years. Allen and Dorothy's ashes will be placed in the First Church in Windsor Memorial Garden this Spring.

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Naigles, Mark

Mark Naigles, 61, a lecturer in the department of mathematics at UConn, and former associate professor of mathematics at Nichols College, died Thursday, December 30, in his Tolland home. Mark was born in Miami Beach, FL, grew up in Niskayuna, NY, graduated from Brown University with an ScB in math in 1982, and earned his M.S. in math from Tufts University in 1984. He married Letitia Rose (Gewirth) Naigles in 1984. Mark worked as an actuary for 19 years in numerous companies in Philadelphia and Connecticut. In 1993, he became an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries. In 2003, Mark began teaching at Nichols College, where he innovated courses in Actuarial Mathematics and Algebra for Business. Mark also taught Problem Solving at UConn for over 15 years, receiving the Institute for Teaching and Learning Outstanding Adjunct Award in 2011. Mark was an enthusiastic math tutor to hundreds of students, from 3rd grade to graduate level. Mark served as president of Beth El Congregation of Storrs-Mansfield for 10 years, as Treasurer of Boy Scout Troop 223 for 4 years, and as Treasurer of the Inter-Religious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) since 2018. Mark and Letty raised two children, Gregory (now of Concord, NH) and Beverly (now of San Diego, CA), and enjoyed hiking, watching Star Trek and Jeopardy!, serving their communities, and cooking and eating Turkish food. Mark is survived by his wife, Letty, his two children, Beverly and Gregory, his mother Janet Kaufmann and stepfather Lawrence Kaufmann, and his sister Deborah N. Lurie (Brian), as well as four brothers-in-law, two sisters-in-law, four nieces and five nephews. Donations in Mark's memory may be made to Math for America (www.mathforamerica.org) or The Art of Problem Solving Initiative (www.artof-problemsolving.org/index.html). For online condolences visit www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

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Brauner, Joanne M.



Joanne M. Brauner, 81, of Wethersfield, passed away on January 1, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital. She was born March 14, 1940 to Mary and Joseph Brauner. Joanne was a loving mother, aunt, and great aunt. She had the biggest heart any one person could ever have. She worked at the Hartford Insurance Co. for 40 years. Joanne had a great love for cats. She enjoyed painting portraits and was extremely talented. She also was an avid fan of the UCONN woman's basketball team. Joanne leaves her loving son Ed Brauner of Wethersfield; four nieces and one nephew, Lynn Kenny of Middletown, Ken and his wife Joan Bockus of Tolland, Kim and husband Bruce McCullum of Vernon, Karen B. Steele of South Windsor, and Beth Bockus of East Hartford. Joanne also leaves her dear and best friend, Doris Hiltgren of Wethersfield. Family and friends are invited to call at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill on Wednesday (January 5, 2022) from 6 to 8 PM. A funeral service will be held on Thursday (January 6th) at 10 AM in the funeral home. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to IBM Thomas Watson Research Center, 1101 Kitchawan Rd. Yorktown, NY. 10598. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories, or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com.

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Abraham, Thomas H



Thomas Henry Abraham 90 of Panama City Beach, FL. Passed away suddenly on Tuesday December 14th 2021 Tom was born on May 26th, 1931 in Hartford, CT. the son of John Richard Abraham and mother's maiden name Margaret Bell of Wethersfield, Ct. Tom graduated from Wethersfield HS, Conn., Hillyer College, University of Hartford, and Boston University, Massachusetts. Tom held the following positions in his career; Clerk of Appellate Session Superior Court of Connecticut, Clerk of the Supreme Court, for the State of Connecticut, in September of 1979 he was appointed Clerk of the Federal Bankruptcy court, district of Connecticut. He was preceeded in death by his brother John Abraham Tom was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Doris B Abraham and his children, Thomas Abraham Jr., his wife, Sarah of Amesbury Massachusetts, and children, Thomas, Andrea, Sarah and Stephanie Durus, and great grandson Thomas. David, and his wife Pamela and daughter Samantha, of Parsonsfield, Maine and son John of Chattanooga TN. Step children, Linda Richard; daughter Nicole Perry, son Ethan and daughter Olivia, son Marc Erickson, Robert Richard and son Andre and daughter Jocelyn, John Richard, daughter Chelsea, sons Sean, Cameron, Brian, and daughter Mackenzie. Tom was a man of many hats. He loved playing golf, tennis, Badminton, Basketball, riding his bike, or just walking. And most of all, watching UConn Huskies women's basketball.

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Falkowski, Anna



Anna E. (Malyski) Falkowski, 94, beloved wife, of the late Chester V. Falkowski passed away on Friday, December 24, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital & Medical Ctr. She was born on November 28, 1927 in Stamford, CT daughter of the late John and Henrietta (Faryniarz) Malyski and had resided in Enfield for many years. Anna was a graduate of Suffield High School. A devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother Anna dedicated her life to caring for her family and home. She was a member of the Enfield Women's Club and St. Bernard's Church. Anna was the loving mother of Barbara Goodale of Cape Cod, MA, Karen Carmel of Mystic, CT, Janice Wajda and Partner Dennis Farley of Wilbraham, MA, and Mark Falkowski and wife, Lynne of Enfield, she was also the beloved grandmother of Jesse Goodale, Theresa Ruvolo, Regina Farrell, Andrea and David Falkowski and aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Lois Malyski. A visitation period will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 from 9:00 – 11:00 am at Browne Memorial Chapels, Enfield, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 am in St. Bernard Church, Enfield. Interment will take place after Mass in St. Bernard Cemetery, Enfield. Memorial donations in her memory may be made to St. Bernard's Church 426 Hazard Ave. Enfield, CT 06082. To leave an online condolence message for the family visit: www.brownefuneralhome.com.

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Rushford, Stephen Vernal



Stephen Vernal Rushford, 68, of Enfield, passed away peacefully at home the morning of Dec. 28, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. Steve was a man who lived life to the fullest; loved his family and friends, Harleys, TV game shows and his black coffee. He was always quick with a joke and often had the room filled with laughter. Steve was an accomplished electrician with the IBEW Local 90. He was also a proud AA member and celebrated over 25 years of sobriety. While working the program he met some of his best friends and tales of their adventures are legendary. After recovering from a life changing brain aneurism in 2006, Steve became a favorite speaker within his Traumatic Brain Injury group. He especially looked forward to speaking annually at Bay Path College about his recovery in order to educate students going into the medical profession.

Above all else, Steve loved his family and truly treasured his grandchildren. He was a fixture at every game, recital, BMX race and school event as well as being known for reading the same book as many times as requested. Steve leaves behind his mother Janis, his siblings Nancy (Rushford) Krach, Timothy Rushford, his sons Christopher and Todd, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. "Steve's Adventures" will truly be missed.

The services for Steve will be at the Browne Memorial Funeral Chapels in Enfield, CT on Saturday, Jan. 8th from 1pm to 4pm. Interment will be at the convenience of the family. To leave an online condolence message visit: www.brownememorialchapels.com.

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White, Ruth Barker



Ruth Barker White (née Hammond) 67, of Gypsum, CO, beloved wife of the late James Leland White, passed away December 16, 2021. Born in Brattleboro, VT, daughter of the late Ralph Nathan and Dorothy Mildred (Jackman) Hammond, Jr., she was raised in Granby, CT and graduated from Granby Memorial High School in 1972. She worked in the Saint Francis Hospital Pulmonary Lab in Hartford for a few years before moving to CO. Ruth was predeceased by her parents and her beloved brother, Ralph A. Hammond. She is survived by two sisters, Kathleen Hammond of Torrington, CT, and Deb Hammond of East Granby, CT. She worked for Vail Associates before joining the Gallegos Corporation in 1987. She was an avid gardener, starting all her seedlings from scratch. She loved bird-watching, photography, needlework and wildflowers. She and Jim loved hiking in the mountains. She leaves a family of beloved friends at Gallegos Corporation, who have set up a fund in her name at the Eagle Valley Humane Society, 50 Chambers Avenue, Eagle, Colorado, 81631 where contributions may be made in lieu of flowers. Burial will be in the Williamsville Cemetery in Williamsville, VT in the spring. Carmon Funeral Home is in caring for the arrangements. For condolences, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Yoon, Barbara T. (Tench)



Barbara T. Yoon, 79, of Ellington, entered into Eternal Peace on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. She was born in Hartford on May 28, 1942, the daughter of the late Loyd and Elaine (Schultz) Tench. Barbara made her home in Somers alongside her husband, the late Dr. Ill Young Yoon. She cofounded Yoon Lab in Enfield, and continued to run the business through the 90's following her husband's passing. She enjoyed traveling to her house on the Cape with her husband, and flying their plane, as they both had pilots licenses. Barbara bred Irish Setters and Borzoi's, taking great pride in showing her dogs throughout different competitions. She was an active member on both the Irish Setter Club of America, Inc. and the Borzoi Club of America, Inc. Later in life she continued her education and became a licensed pharmacy technician, passing the pharmacy technician board exam in 2009. Barbara was a wonderful baker, always sharing sweets and cookies with co-workers and friends. Services and burial will be held privately. Somers Funeral Home has care of Barbara's arrangements. To leave online condolences please visit www.somersfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

Rogers, John P.



John P. Rogers, 83, of Weatogue, beloved husband of 48 years to Gail (Fuller) Rogers, passed away peacefully Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at his home. The Memorial Service which was scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 11:00am in the Avon Congregational Church, Avon has been POSTPONED due to the pandemic. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St., Avon, CT 06001. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahern-funeralhome.com.

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
BERNADETTE G 'BOOMER' LEBLANC



04/11/1941 - 01/04/2021



Mum, you left this earth a year ago today and we miss you so much as if it were yesterday. You will be forever in our hearts. Love always, your family.

In Loving Memory Of
JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ



6/24/1959 1/4/2014

Eight years ago your body left us but your spirit lives on in our hearts and memories. Love always, Marcia, Martin, Larissa, Ellis, Lilliana & Hailee

In Loving Memory Of
ROSE TOSTARELLI- GEORGE
12/2009

We love more than words can say
And miss you each and everyday
Your loving family

In Loving Memory Of
JANIE WILLIAMS



8/1/1926 - 1/4/2010



You may be gone from our sight but you are never gone from our hearts. We love and miss you always.

The Williams Family



Stories
live on.
Tell theirs.

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 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	 MARINES 2	 LIONS CLUB	 METHODIST CHURCH	 ORTHODOX COMBINED CROSS	 PRAYER HAND
 ORTHODOX RUSSIAN CROSS	 STAR OF DAVID	 FOOTBALL	 POLICE BADGE	 CORE ORGAN DONOR	 SHAMROCK
 MASONIC	 ANGEL	 BALLOONS	 BASEBALL	 BASKETBALL	 BUTTERFLY
 CHECKERED FLAG	 DOVE	 MOTORCYCLE	 ROTARY	 MUSIC NOTE	 HEART BLANK
					 TEDDY BEAR

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SAVVY SHOPPER



JOHANNA BURAI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Anna P. Kambhampaty and Julie Creswell
The New York Times

On a Friday afternoon in the spring of 2020, Hope Bagozzi, the chief marketing officer at the Canadian coffee chain Tim Hortons, was on a Zoom call with representatives for Justin Bieber.

The agenda for the meeting? Exploring a possible partnership between the two Canadian greats.

The call was business-as-usual but took a surreal turn when suddenly, Bagozzi remembered, a black box that had been silent on the screen turned on, revealing the presence of Bieber himself. He spoke about how much he enjoyed eating Timbits, the restaurant’s bite-size doughnuts.

The result of the call was Timbiebs, a limited-edition line of doughnut holes in flavors dreamed up by the pop star and Tim Hortons’ in-house chef, which includes chocolate white fudge and birthday cake waffle. They hit restaurants in November.

Welcome to the era of the celebrity happy meal. Fast-food companies are tripping over themselves to align their products with supernova musicians and influencers in the hopes that their menu items will appeal to a younger audience. For consumers, it is a relatively cheap and easy way to connect with their favorite celebrities.

Many of the megastars the companies are courting are more than willing to cooperate, sometimes initiating the partnerships themselves. After seeing Bieber’s deal, Michael Bublé posted a TikTok video to suggest a doughnut-based collaboration of his own: Bublébits.

Dunkin’ teamed with Charli D’Amelio. There was a Lil Huddy meal at Burger King. Megan Thee Stallion has her own sauce with Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen. McDonald’s has created meals with Saweetie, BTS, J Balvin and Travis Scott. In November, 10 people were killed and dozens were injured during Scott’s performance at the Astroworld Festival in Houston. The performer’s

partnership with McDonald’s ended in 2020, according to the company.

Recently, McDonald’s joined with Mariah Carey, to promote 12 days of deals on her favorite items, available only through the chain’s app. Despite the fact that Carey has previously said she eats only Norwegian salmon and capers, the performer’s favorite foods at McDonald’s apparently include Big Macs, hot cakes and chocolate-chip cookies.

This trend in partnerships is proving to be a boon for restaurants and celebrities, according to analysts and observers. It is also helping companies gain insights into the behavior of young consumers.

For some chains, the celebs are a powerful lure that can entice customers to download restaurant apps or join loyalty programs to get meals, discounts or even free food. McDonald’s has seen 10 million downloads of its app since it started its celebrity meals in September 2020, a significant jump.

These celebrity partnerships are also helping

brands gain access to where millions of digital natives spend tons of time: Instagram, TikTok and other social media platforms.

“If you think about the target we’re focusing on, which is youth and youth culture, that’s where they’re living,” said Jennifer Healan, the vice president of U.S. marketing, brand content and engagement for McDonald’s.

Even before Dunkin’ teamed with D’Amelio, it was clear to her followers on TikTok (of which there are currently more than 130 million) that the 17-year-old brunette liked the chain’s drinks; she frequently posted videos and clips of herself sipping coffee while dancing or showing off her outfit of the day. “There wasn’t a day she wouldn’t go without her Dunkin’,” said Ali Berman, the head of digital talent and a partner at United Talent Agency, which represents D’Amelio.

In September 2020, when Dunkin’ debuted the Charli — a Dunkin’ cold brew coffee with whole milk and three pumps of caramel swirl

— and D’Amelio advertised the drink on her social media platforms, the result was a record in daily active Dunkin’ app users, company executives said in an earnings call last year.

For Dunkin’, the partnership was straightforward. The company didn’t have to spend weeks or months whipping up new flavored coffees or dreaming up clever new names. “We took an existing product, renamed it after her and positioned it to appeal to a younger consumer,” said Scott Murphy, president of Dunkin’ Americas, in the same earnings call. (Dunkin’ later introduced another D’Amelio drink, the Charli Cold Foam, which was simply the Charli with some cinnamon sugar and cold foam added to it.)

TikTok was soon flooded with free promotion for Dunkin’, as young people posted videos of themselves sipping Charlis. Similarly, when McDonald’s was selling its Travis Scott meal, the rapper’s fans recorded videos of themselves blasting his song “Sicko Mode” as they ordered, then shared the videos on

TikTok.

“Young people become these unintentional marketers,” said Frances Fleming-Milici, the director of marketing initiatives for the University of Connecticut’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health. “Companies don’t have to pay for that organic content and all the TikToks that people make.”

Those app downloads and sign-ups also allow the fast-food companies to collect customer data. Restaurant chains like McDonald’s are trying to track how customers are ordering, and specifically determine where, at what time, how frequently, and how they pay, said Kelly Martin, a marketing professor at Colorado State University, who researches customer-data privacy issues.

Starbucks has been particularly successful with its loyalty rewards program, Martin said. “With the customer data they have been able to collect through their program, they’ve been able to dramatically increase the value per customer.”

SOLUTIONS

Retirement living alone vs. having a later-life roommate

By Carla Fried
Rate.com

Being home alone is a retirement reality for many. According to government data, more than three in 10 women and two in 10 men at least age 65 live alone. For women, the odds of being solo increase with age, thanks in part to longer life expectancy than men. In 2018, 44% of women at least age 75 lived alone.

Anyone living alone — and who worries about having the retirement income they need to enjoy themselves — should at least consider having a roommate. Sure, it’s way outside the box, but before you dismiss the idea, consider how it might enhance your retirement.

Home alone is expensive

Even if you’ve polished off the mortgage, there’s still property tax to pay.

In pricey markets such as Short Hills, New Jersey, where the average home sale price is near \$2.5 million, or Boston, where the average home sale price is near \$1 million, that’s likely going to eat a chunk of retirement income.

Or maybe you’ve got your eye on a retirement relocation, but your top choices seem out of reach. The \$600,000 average sales price for a San Diego condo or townhome might be more in reach if there’s someone to share costs with. Perhaps the dream of retiring in Key Largo, Florida — median monthly rent of nearly \$1,400 — becomes more realistic when there’s another person to share bills with.

Been wishing you could move into a bustling city, where you can ditch the car and walk more? Maybe that becomes more realistic when the cost is shared.

Then there’s the potential payoff from having some company. Maybe that’s not front of mind now, but as you age, you may find your energy to go out to see friends and attend events slows a bit. Studies have shown that social isolation is a health risk and it may also lead to an increased likelihood of developing dementia.

Start the co-housing conversation

OK, the big hurdle is finding the right roommate. And that’s not easy, because this is a topic that isn’t exactly part of everyday conversations. But what do you have to lose by raising the issue? Do you have friends or family who are also living alone, and that you could envision sharing a place with? Start with them.

And consider floating the idea among any communi-



DREAMSTIME

ties you are involved with, be it a place of worship or your local NextDoor group. Maybe frame it as an exploration. “I am interested in the possibility of sharing my home (a home) in retirement. It’s a big decision, but if you share the interest, might we start a conversation?”

Companies including SeniorHomeshares.com

and Silvernest are in the business of connecting seniors looking for shared housing. The OddCouplesHousing.com website works to connect older homeowners with younger adults looking to rent a room and, if agreed upon, handle some of the chores.

Hash out the logistics

You want to work out

as many kinks as possible before anyone makes a move. There’s no need to combine financial accounts. If only one of you is paying the other, put in writing the date that a direct deposit will be made to your checking account each month. Or if you’re splitting housing costs, maybe consider setting up a joint checking account to autopay all the bills, with the understanding that you both will make your monthly deposits into that account by an agreed upon date each month.

Also put in writing exactly what costs will be shared. Are you going to shop and cook together or separately?

The biggest hurdle will be talking through how you might handle one of you becoming ill. Don’t assume the other person will be the caregiver. You need to carefully discuss how that situation will be handled.

CELEBRITIES

New Weeknd album to drop Friday

From news services

After months of teases, the Weeknd has finally announced that his new album, “Dawn FM,” will be released on Friday. He unveiled the news in a characteristically cryptic video that includes several film-score-like snippets from what may be his new single. The album is billed as “a new sonic universe from the mind of the Weeknd.” There’s also a list of co-stars — Quincy Jones; Tyler, the Creator; Lil Wayne; Oneohtrix Point Never; and actor Jim Carrey.

The video closes with a voiceover saying, “You are now listening to 103.5: Dawn FM. You’ve been in the dark for way too long, it’s time to walk into the light and accept your fate with open arms.”

The album is The Weeknd’s first full-length release since his blockbuster “After Hours,” released in March 2020, although he has since released songs, remixes, collaborations and videos; starred in and co-wrote the forthcoming HBO series “The Idol”; and headlined the 2021 Super Bowl Halftime show.

White birthday doc gets new title: A documentary intended to celebrate Betty White’s 100th birthday is still coming to theaters, even though the beloved actor died at age 99 on Dec. 31.

The producers of “Betty White: 100 Years Young — A Birthday Celebration” have confirmed that the film will be released as planned Jan. 17, which would have been White’s centennial birthday. The title, however, has been changed to “Betty White: A Celebration.”

“We will go forward with our plans to show the film ... in hopes our film will provide a way for all who loved her to celebrate her life — and



The Weeknd, seen at the 2021 Super Bowl Halftime show, will release a new album, “Dawn FM,” Friday. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**

experience what made her such a national treasure,” said production duo Steve Boettcher and Mike Trinklein in a statement.

The film will feature interviews with many of the star’s Hollywood friends and colleagues. It will also sample video from White’s final interview while providing “a backstage look at her career, and insights into what was most important to her.”

‘Spider-Man’ tops box office again: Hollywood closed out 2021 with more fireworks at the box office for “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which topped all films for the third straight week and already charts among the highest grossing films ever.

The Sony Pictures’ Marvel sequel “grossed an estimated \$52.7 million over the weekend to bring its total to \$609.9 million. That ranks 10th all-time in North America. Worldwide, it has made \$1.37

billion, a total that puts it above “Black Panther” and makes it the 12th highest grossing film globally.

Second place over the weekend went to Universal Picture’s animated sequel “Sing 2.” It took in \$19.6 million in its second weekend to bring its total to \$89.7 million. “The King’s Man,” the third installment in Matthew Vaughn’s “Kingsman” series, grossed \$4.5 million in its second week and took third place. The Disney release, produced by 20th Century Studios, has made \$47.8 million globally.

Jan. 4 birthdays: Actor Barbara Rush is 95. Actor Dyan Cannon is 85. Singer Kathy Forester is 67. Guitarist Bernard Sumner is 66. Singer Patty Loveless is 65. Singer Michael Stipe is 62. Actor Dave Foley is 59. Actor Damon Gupton is 49. Actor Jill Marie Jones is 47. Actor D’Arcy Carden is 42. Actor Charlyne Yi is 36.

TV Q&A

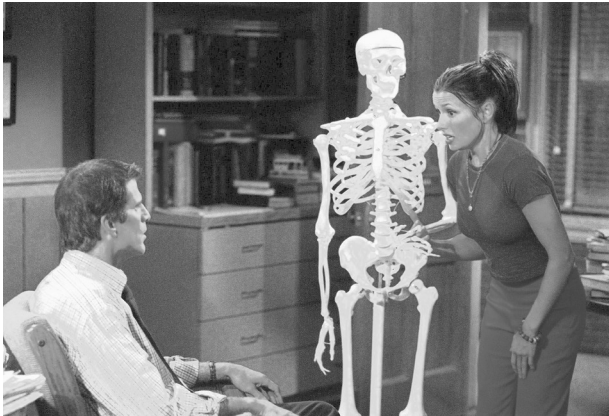
Why don’t guide descriptions of reruns match episode that airs?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Q: I regularly watched “Becker,” “The King of Queens” and “Everybody Loves Raymond” and enjoy the reruns. I’ve noticed that in the episode descriptions in my on-screen guide there have been episodes where it says characters “meet up at Dr. Becker’s office.” One noted that Ray from “Raymond,” Doug from “King of Queens” and Bill Cosby meet at Dr. Becker’s office. But I’ve watched the episodes, and nobody ever meets up at Dr. Becker’s office and Ted Danson (the Dr. Becker actor) does not appear in the episode. What gives?

A: You (and the listings) have been mixed up by a crossover, the practice of different series mingling characters to draw an audience. In 1999, CBS did a crossover among its four Monday comedies — “Becker,” “King,” “Raymond” and “Cosby” (not “The Cosby Show,” but a later series). The “Becker” crossover element was apparently a brief scene with characters from the other three shows in his waiting room. When shows go from network telecasts to syndication, they are often trimmed or sped up to make room for more commercials. In that “Becker” episode, the crossover scene was cut; it was not key to the episode’s overall plot and would not make sense apart from the other crossover shows. It does not even appear in the “Becker” DVD for that season, which admits “some episodes may be edited from their original network versions.”

Q: Was “Mayor of



Ted Danson and Shawnee Smith in “Becker.” **CBS**

Kingstown” canceled? It followed “Yellowstone” Sundays on Paramount.

A: Let’s start with a reminder that there is Paramount Network, a cable-and-satellite service, and Paramount+, a streaming operation. New episodes of “Yellowstone” air on Paramount Network. Because it is a huge hit, “Mayor of Kingstown” and “1883” have had some special presentations following telecasts of “Yellowstone” to get viewers interested in those series. But aside from those showings, new episodes of “Kingstown” and “1883” are on Paramount+.

Q: I’m hoping you may know a movie and where I can find it. It starred Martin Sheen as a captain of a ship that goes down. There are too many people on a life raft, and he has to decide which passengers to save. Tom Bosley is one of the passengers.

A: That is “The Last Survivors,” a 1975 TV movie with Sheen, Bosley, Diane Baker, Bruce Davison, Anne Francis and Leif Garrett. One reference calls it an uncredited remake of “Abandon Ship,” a Tyrone Power movie. “Last Survivors” can be found on YouTube.

Q: I was wondering if Charlie Sheen was actually drinking on “Two and a Half Men.” It seemed he always had a beer or a drink in his hand. Why was he replaced by Ashton Kutcher?

A: I can’t say that Sheen was drinking on the show; he did once tell Dan Patrick that he was never drunk or high on the air, but he would at times arrive “not having slept much.” He was fired from the show during the eighth season in 2011 for “dangerously self-destructive conduct,” a firing letter said at the time. In addition to off-set excesses, he was reportedly late for rehearsals, had trouble remembering his lines and had publicly berated producer Chuck Lorre. Sheen later conceded to Deadline.com that he was at fault, that “I was getting loaded and my brain wasn’t working right.” Kutcher was brought in, and the show lasted four more seasons with him.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Moadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Married man wonders about platonic friend

Dear Amy: I am a 39-year-old married man. I made a friend two years ago at work. She is 39, divorced, and lives alone. Our friendship built up over time and is solid.

Over the last few months, she has been opening up about her darkest feelings and deepest secrets. Best friends do share a lot, but I am unsure how much is too much. She has been behaving in a platonic way, but sometimes I do get vibes of this crossing the line.

Once felt that she wanted to give me a long hug but then walked away. (This was a very strong vibe.)

I had a talk about her behavior. She confirmed that things are platonic, but I can’t shake off these vibes.

During some conversations, the look in her eyes does tell me that something is up.

She has anxiety and depression and is on meds. How should I manage this? Should I assume that she isn’t having feelings?

I am not someone who gives up on friends, but at the same time, I can’t handle it if she develops feelings for me.

— *KK*

Dear KK: Married people can maintain friendships aside from the marriage, but here’s a reminder: Your spouse should hold “best friend” status for you, and it is important that you convey this — in large and small ways — to your work friend.

An analogy I appreciate is to envision a structure — a house — where you and your wife are inside together. When others

seek a friendship with you, they should knock on the door and be invited in.

Your work friend seems to be jimmying a window open. She is confiding in you, which is establishing a private intimacy. It obviously makes you feel uncomfortable, and my suggestion is for you to gently close the window and direct her around to the entrance of your metaphorical house.

Do not share intimacies of your own life with her. Refrain from commenting too deeply when she confides in you.

Do not communicate with her outside of work.

Establishing firmer boundaries should help your friend to transition to a more appropriate relationship with you. It is important for her to recognize that you should not be her only confidant.

It is important for you to recognize that any time you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to respond in a way that protects you.

Dear Amy: I am fully vaccinated and boosted, but I do not believe it is anyone’s business except for my medical providers.

If I am invited somewhere and the person says that they need to know my vaccination status first, I would like to tell them that it is none of their business and I’m not comfortable with their questions, so let’s not get together now. I’d like to say, “Let’s get together when you feel comfortable issuing invitations without the medical questionnaire.”

I don’t want my response to sound as aggressive as that, however. Can you

help me with a friendlier, more diplomatic response?

— *Trying to Save Friendships*

Dear Trying: Like you, I believe in anyone’s right to hold their vaccination status privately, and I have guarded my own.

And then my rural hometown became the nexus point of an invasive viral spike and a family member became ill. And now I believe that — if answering this simple question helps someone else to feel less anxious and vulnerable — then, OK!

You can politely answer, “I’d rather not disclose my own status, and I understand if that means we won’t be able to see one another for a while, but I look forward to seeing you when things settle down.”

Given that many public venues are now requiring proof of vaccination to enter, you may be facing a lonely few months, but your privacy and your principles will remain intact.

Dear Amy: “Proud Papa” wondered if he should tell his daughter that she was too overweight to wear a crop top. Thank you for discouraging his impulse to comment on his daughter’s body!

Well-meaning people seem to have no idea how damaging this can be.

— *Been There*

Dear Been There: I can’t imagine that any person would welcome this sort of assessment.

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your friends could seem to ask a lot from you at this time. While you may consider helping others to be important, going about it in a way that doesn’t leave you with enough resources to take care of yourself isn’t sustainable.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Authority figures may seem cold to you today. You could be tempted to confront them about it. That said, be careful what you wish for! Even if changing your boundaries with them is necessary, it might be a messy process at first. Their patterns could have been holding the lid down.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): A close relationship of yours — whether business, friendship, or anything else — could be at a point where you need to decide how to move forward. You may be tempted to fall back on advice you’ve read or heard about what is proper. You’re more capable than you think.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You may feel like you’re doing all the work in a situation involving shared resources. Even if you think this is unfair, you also might not see any other way the resource in question could be handled. Getting an outside perspective on it could be helpful for you.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Jan. 4, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the disabled.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A relationship that’s a lot of fun for you might also be lacking in the emotional connection department. You may wonder if you should let this person go so you can look for someone else who’s open about their feelings in a more conventional way. Let your intuition guide you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have ambitious plans for getting a lot done around your house today. However, others you live with might not be as interested in this as you are, so be ready to adjust your expectations to prevent any interpersonal frustrations. As long as you stay focused on things that you have the right to do.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An opportunity for investing or collaborating with your money or other resources might tempt you at this time. However, don’t let anyone else push you into a commitment! It should be your choice on your terms. Fortunately, you’re likely to know the right questions to ask.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Achieving stability in your home life could be so important to you at this time that you’re willing to invest more of your own resources. Before you go all out, make sure that other people are on the same page. Someone else may be working toward a goal that conflicts with yours.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Changing one of your routines might be appealing to you now. However, as you begin pursuing this, you could discover that figuring out the details of how you want things to work on a daily basis is a different challenge from having the basic idea to revolutionize your routine.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Getting an accurate picture of your current budget might require you to be honest about what you really spend money on. It’s not necessarily wrong to take risks and have fun at times. In fact, feeling bad about doing those things might harm your financial outlook more than actually doing them.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Playing the levelheaded peacemaker in one of your friend groups or communities could be satisfying for you now. However, you may be frustrated that you can’t successfully work this magic within your own family. Acknowledging your primal side might help you understand.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Intentional honesty can work better for you than you expect right now — especially because even if you may have your reasons to keep secrets, the truth could still come out. If you’re able to tell your story before anyone else does so, people might give you a fairer hearing.

In 1948, Burma (now called Myanmar) became independent of British rule.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his “Great Society.”

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1999, former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura took the oath of office as Minnesota’s governor.

In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House.

In 2015, Pope Francis named 156 new cardinals, selecting them from 14 countries, including Asia and Africa.

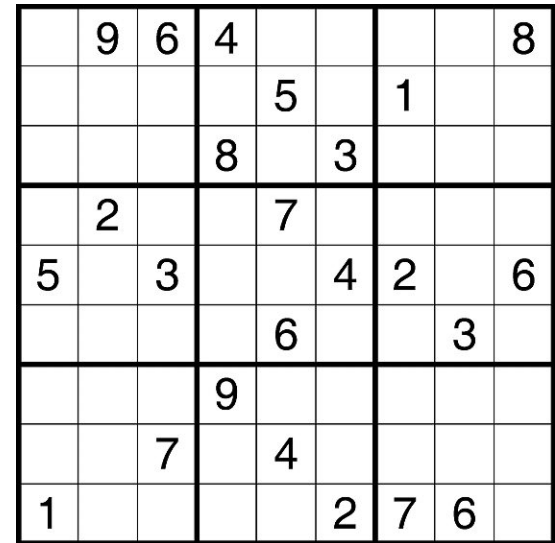
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

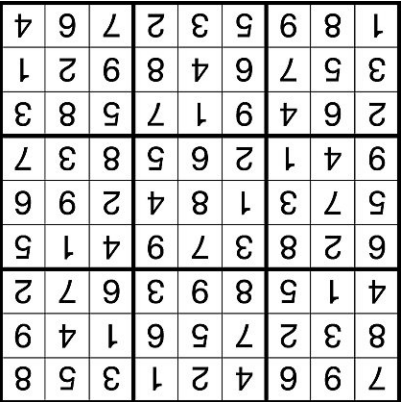
SUDOKU



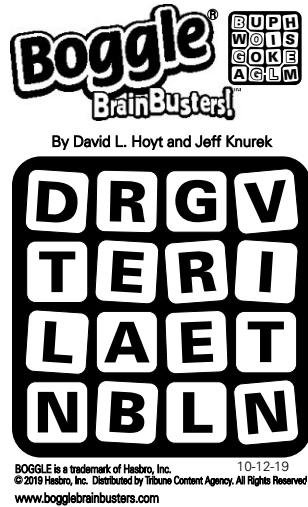
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



BOGGLE



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

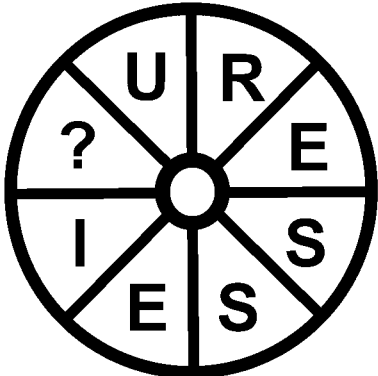
BOGGLE SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 5 points
8 letters = 6 points
9 letters = 7 points
10 letters = 8 points
11 letters = 9 points
12 letters = 10 points
13 letters = 11 points
14 letters = 12 points
15 letters = 13 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE COLORS in the grid of letters.

RED TAN TEAL BEIGE GREEN

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: means of transport

256

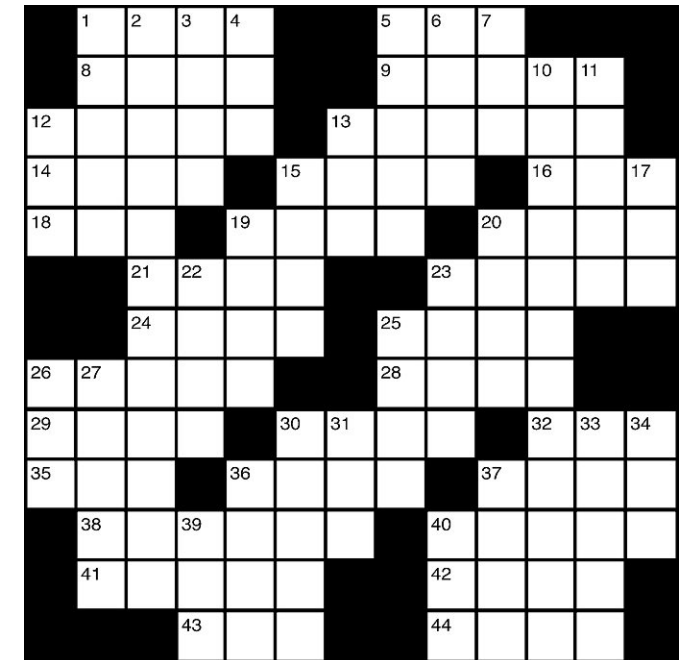
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|
| AMBULANCE | COUPE | LUGE | TANKER |
| BARGE | DRAY | MILK FLOAT | TAXI |
| BARROW | FERRY | MOPED | TOBOGGAN |
| BIKE | FIRE ENGINE | PRAM | TRACTOR |
| BOAT | HEARSE | RAILCAR | TRAIN |
| BRIG | HORSE | RICKSHAW | TROIKA |
| BUGGY | JEEP | ROCKET | TROLLEY |
| BUSES | JUNK | SCOOTER | TRUCK |
| CARS | LIMO | SLEIGH | UNICYCLE |
| CHARIOT | LOCOMOTIVE | SULKY | VANS |
| COACH | LORRY | TANDEM | YACHT |

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/20/15

ACROSS

- 1 "___ Trek": Voyager"
- 5 Goodman or Cariou
- 8 "The ___ Red Line"; film for Jim Caviezel and Sean Penn
- 9 College credits
- 12 Max of "The Beverly Hillbillies" and his dad Max the boxer
- 13 "Sex ___ City"
- 14 "A Farewell to ___"; Rock Hudson movie
- 15 Bernie and others
- 16 Arden or Plumb
- 18 Last page of a calendar: abbr.
- 19 Actor Wyle
- 20 Namesakes of actress West
- 21 Casual farewell
- 23 "The Man Who ___ There"; film for Billy Bob Thornton
- 24 Sitcom about a deacon
- 25 Brother to Lisa and Maggie
- 26 "Green ___"
- 28 Actor Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 29 Damon or Dillon
- 30 Tim "The ___ Man" Taylor; role for Tim Allen



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12/20/15

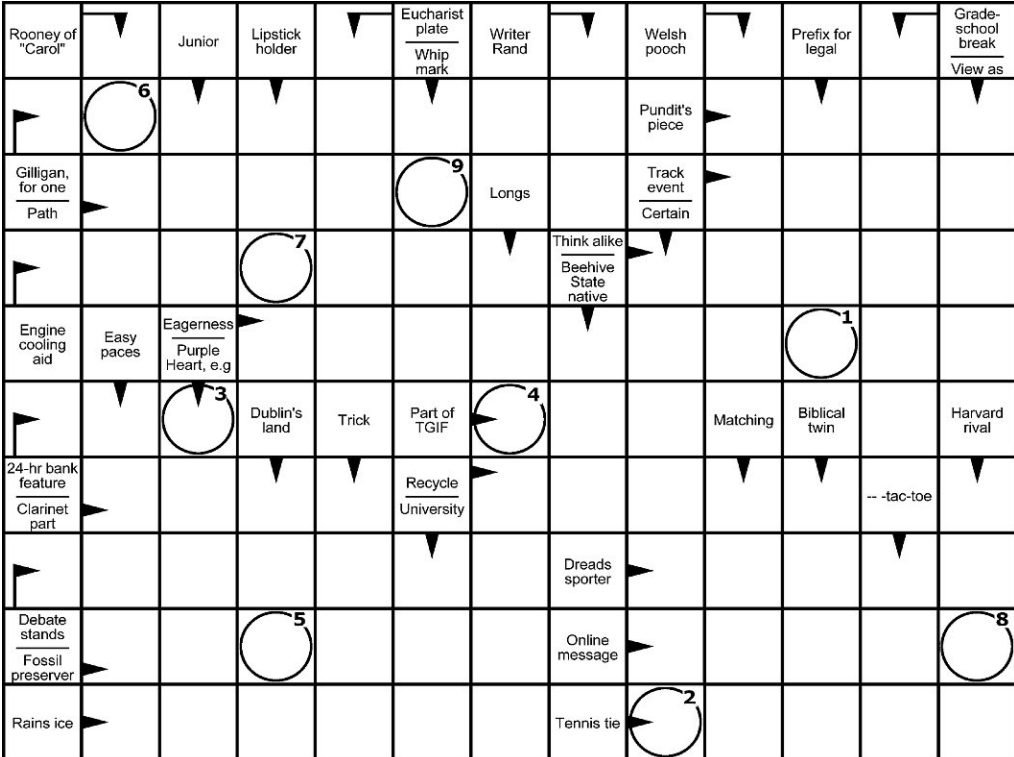
- 32 Jed Clampett's discovery
- 35 Suffix for child or fool
- 36 Howard and Glass
- 37 "The King ___"; Yul Brynner film
- 38 Actor ___ Power
- 40 Pandemonium
- 41 Young pupil's writing assignment
- 42 Tow; drag
- 43 Six-pointers, for short
- 44 Baseball's Mel and his family

DOWN

- 1 Fixed gaze
- 2 Series for Laurie Metcalf
- 3 Broadcasts
- 4 Hosp. floor supervisors, often
- 5 Noon activity
- 6 Conclusions
- 7 Word with pick or wit
- 10 "___ Wives Club"
- 11 "___ Pounds"; Will Smith movie
- 12 "Breaking ___"; crime drama series
- 13 Battery size
- 15 Soleil ___ Frye
- 17 Suffix for strong or long
- 19 Scottish denials
- 20 Actress Winningham
- 22 "How ___ Your Mother"
- 23 "The Wolf of ___ Street"; movie for Leonardo DiCaprio
- 25 Short life sketches
- 26 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
- 27 Social division in India
- 30 Curtis or Danza
- 31 "___ Life to Live"
- 33 Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and others
- 34 Fleur-de-___
- 36 "Mad Max: Fury ___"; action film for Tom Hardy
- 37 At the drop of ___; instantly
- 39 OPQ followers
- 40 Comedienne Margaret ___

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

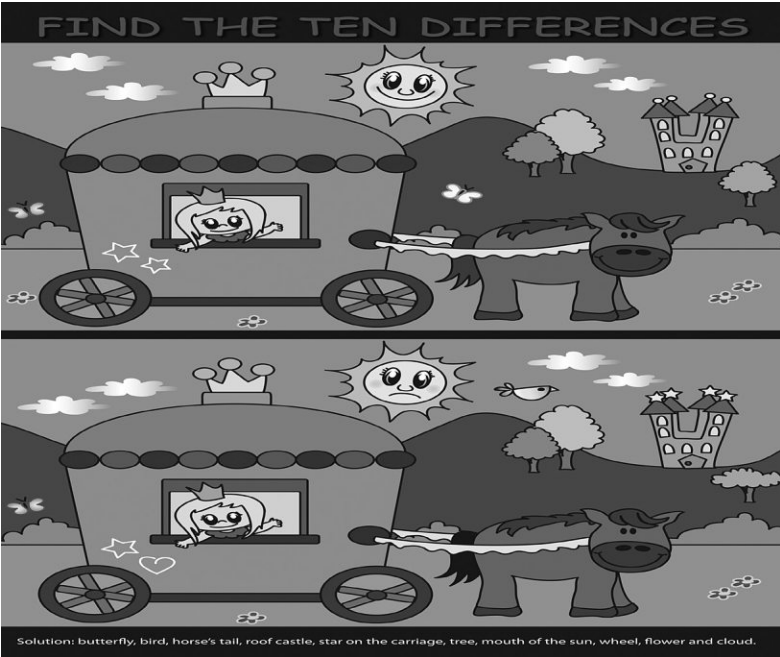
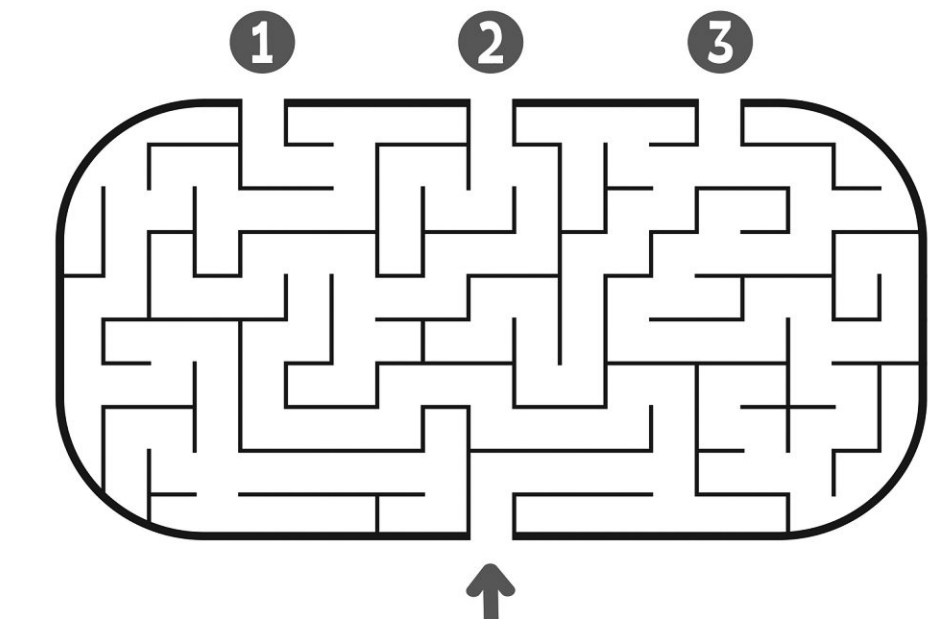


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10/21/18

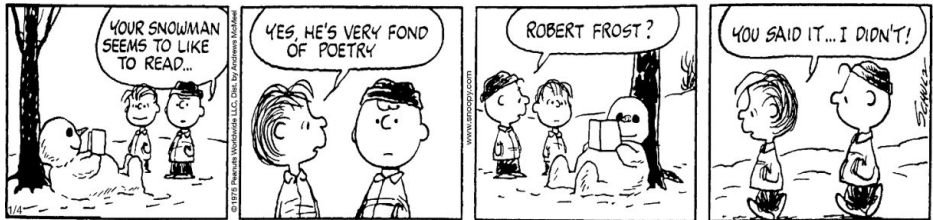


KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

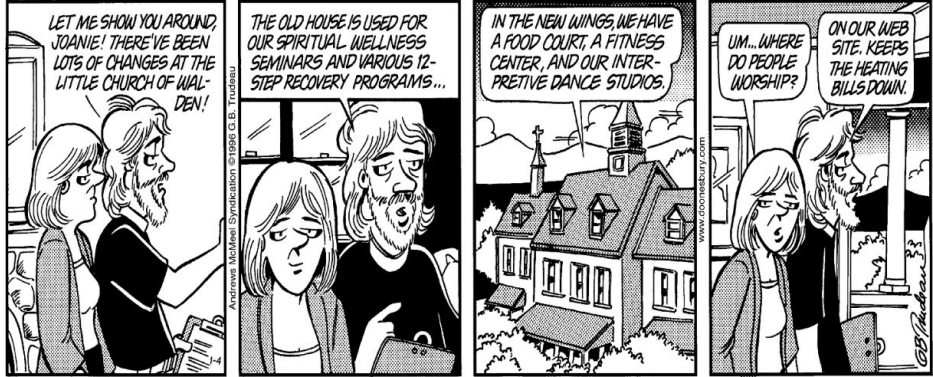


Solution: butterfly, bird, horse's tail, roof castle, star on the carriage, tree, mouth of the sun, wheel, flower and cloud.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



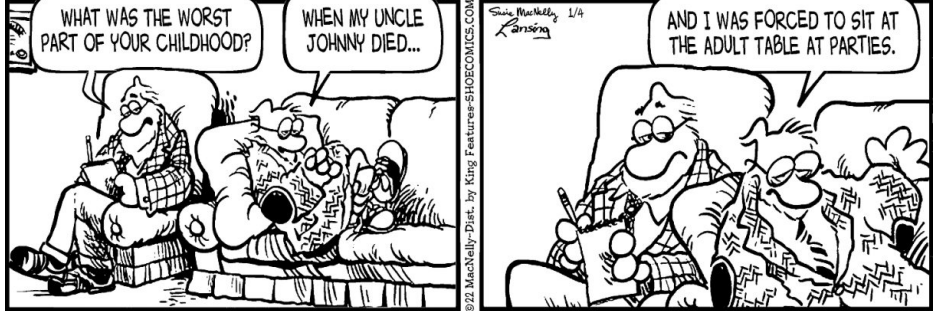
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



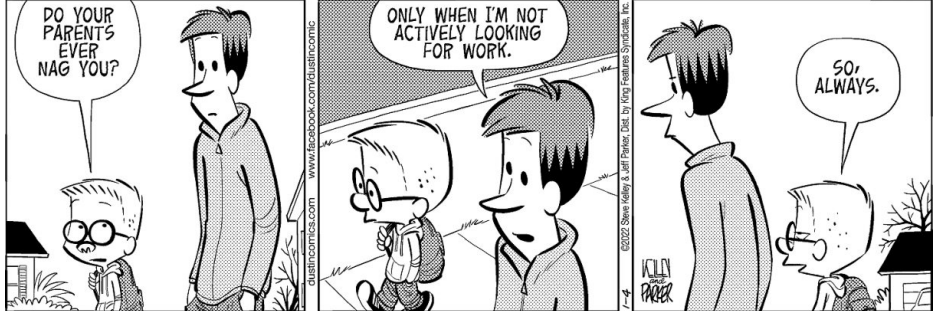
Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



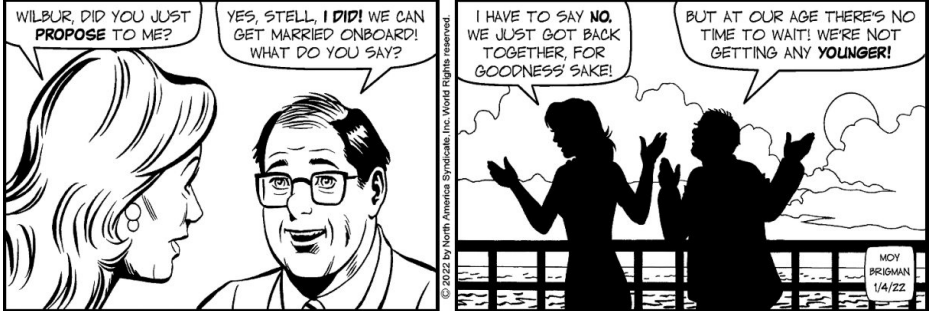
Dilbert By Scott Adams



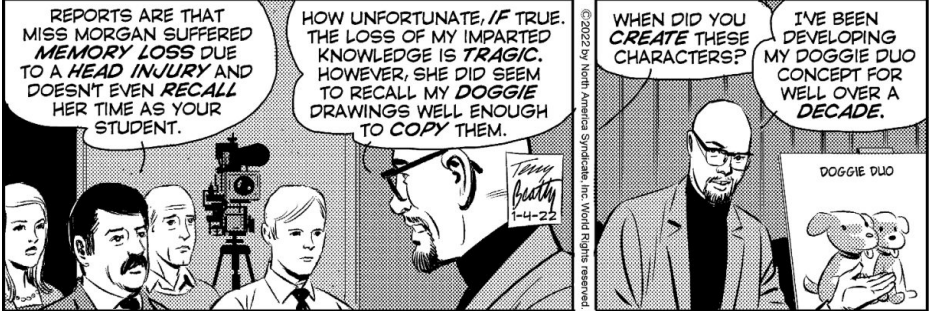
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



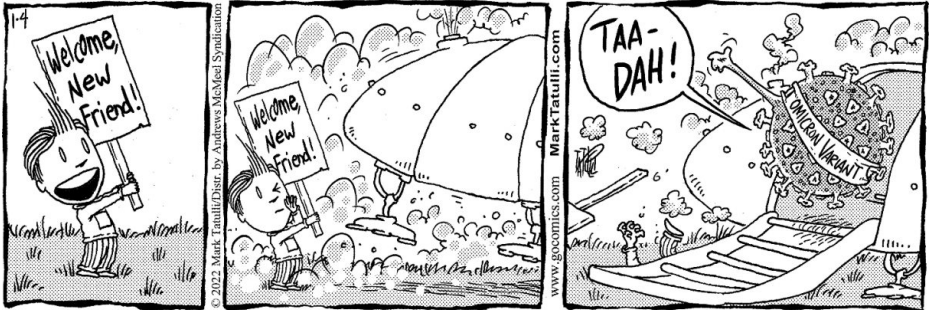
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



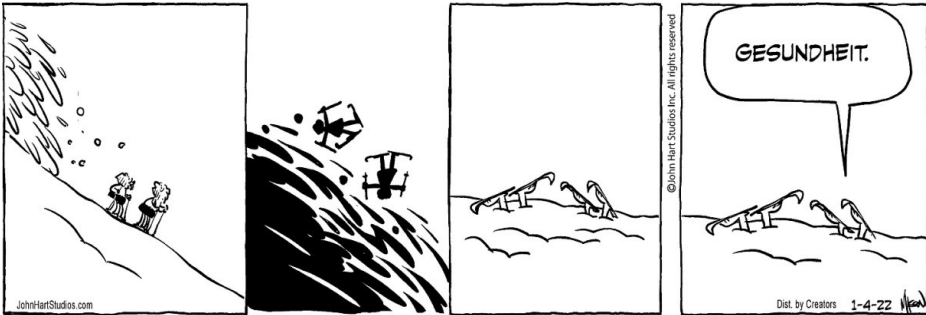
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



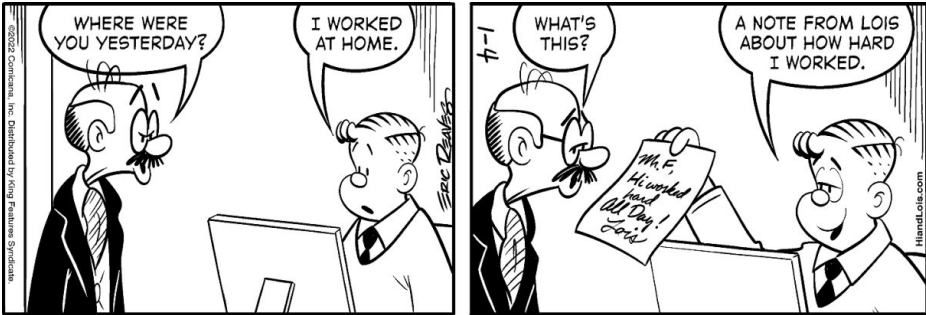
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



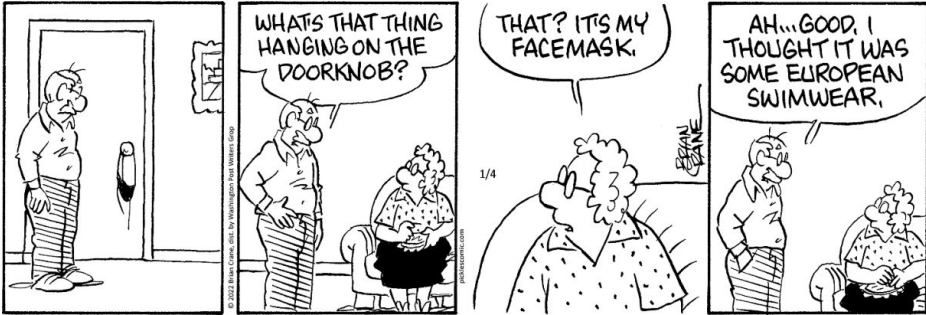
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



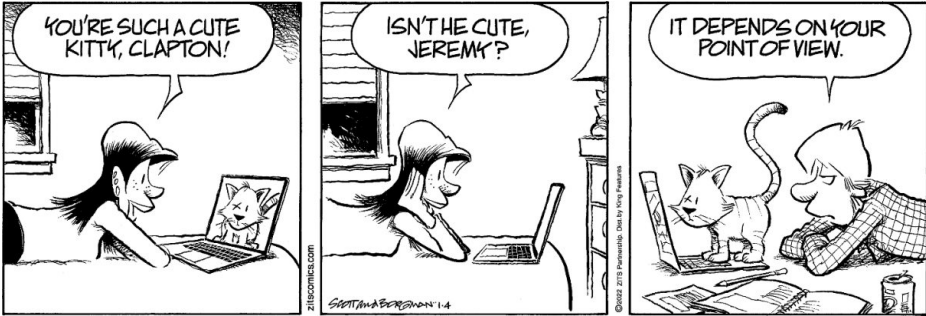
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



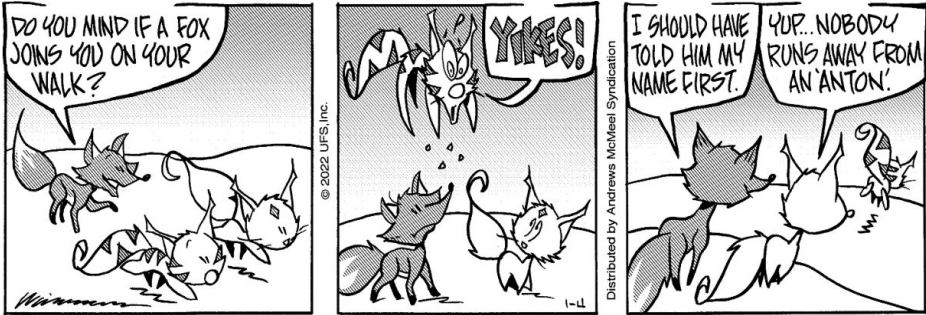
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



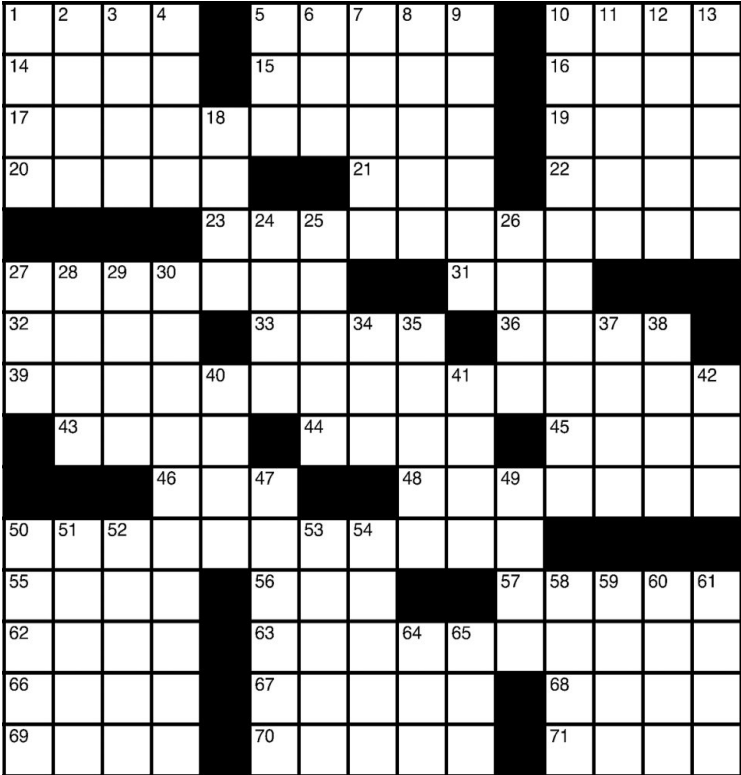
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 The "A" in many gp. names
5 Pandowdy fruit
10 Golden St. school
14 Seed in some yogurt
15 Manicurist's smoothing tool
16 Bridal accessory
17 *Stuffed items in the frozen-food aisle
19 'Enry's greeting
20 Hunt played by Cruise in "Mission: Impossible" films
21 Docs' org. with a noted journal
22 Chinese city that was the starting point of the Silk Road
23 *Apartment storage measure
27 Dwelled
31 Monkey house site
32 Amazed
33 Requirement for travel abroad, at times
36 Future atty.'s exam
39 *Ideas in support of gender equality
43 Take a taxi, say
44 Hatcher of "Lois & Clark"
45 Enjoy a book
46 NYC subway org.
48 Swallows
50 *Tiny white flower used as filler in bouquets
55 Saudi, usually
56 Gaelic counterpart of John
- 57 Spine-tingling
62 Number of Supreme Court justices
63 *Where to dive in a pool ... and what the answers to starred clues all share?
66 Makes a request
67 Propelled a rowboat
68 Tempo
69 For fear that
70 Moves smoothly
71 Stretch across
- 6 Commercial suffix with Water
7 Court answers
8 Eager volunteer's cry
9 Like a bad copy
10 Sunburn cause, for short
11 Salsa singer Cruz
12 Purple hue
13 Unaccompanied
18 Like a lot of '80s-'90s music
24 Son of Jacob
25 Lofty poet
26 Unaccompanied
27 Where Prince William served: Abbr.
28 Pitcher in art
29 Final Four game
30 "That was as good as it gets for me!"
34 Fr. holy woman
35 Heart chambers
37 Many years
- 38 "__ does it!"
40 Brooklyn NBA team
41 Help for a stumped solver
42 NFL six-pointers
47 Not very much
49 Clarified butter used in Indian cuisine
50 Boring
51 Come to light
52 Fog or cloud masses
53 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby
54 Primer mes del año
58 Omar of "House"
59 Take in the harvest
60 Ancient Peruvian
61 Eve's first home
64 Beads on blades
65 Masthead names, for short



By Stella Zawistowski Tribune Content Agency 1/4/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 7
♥ 9 7 2
♦ K 7 4 2
♣ A 5 3 2

WEST

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 4 3
♦ 10 3
♣ 9 6

EAST

♠ K 10 5 4
♥ 8 6 5
♦ Q 9 5
♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q J
♥ A K
♦ A J 8 6
♣ K J 7 4

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 2 ♠* Pass 2 ♦
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT

*strong, artificial
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Low-card entries

The problem of insufficient entries to a hand can occasionally be resolved by careful manipulation of the cards. In this deal, for example, South can make all 13 tricks if he plays properly. This might not seem to be a vital matter, since the contract is only three notrump, but anyone capable of making all the tricks on this layout can be said to be very well versed in the art of manufacturing entries.

West leads a heart, and South sees there are four finesses to be taken — two in spades, one in diamonds and one in clubs. The difficulty is that there are only two apparent entries in dummy for these purposes.

However, all the finesses can be accomplished by making judicious use of the low cards.

South wins the heart and leads the club seven to the ace. He then returns a low club to the jack and cashes the king. As a

result, his carefully preserved four of clubs becomes an entry to dummy's five.

Declarer performs a similar feat in diamonds. He leads the eight to the king, finesses the jack and cashes the ace. This leaves the six as an entry to dummy's seven.

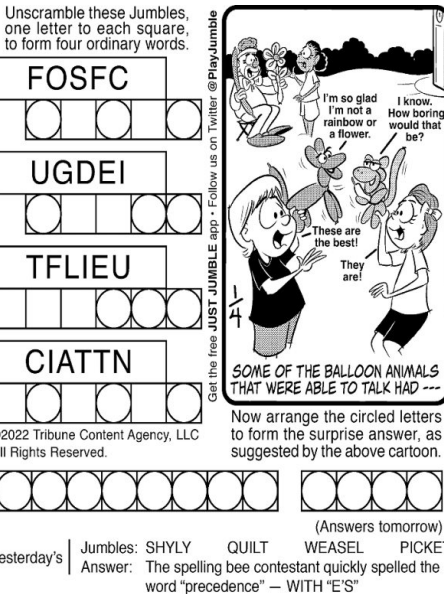
South now utilizes his two additional entries to take two spade finesses, crossing to the five of clubs for one of them, and to the seven of diamonds for the other. His work done, he then claims 13 tricks.

Observe that declarer can easily spare the seven of clubs and eight of diamonds the first time he leads each suit to dummy. They are not significant as high cards but are used as building blocks (or in this case, unblocks) in the creation of the extra entries declarer needs.

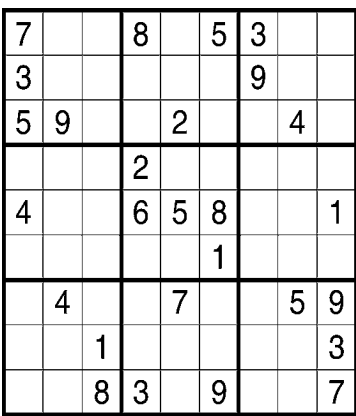
Tomorrow: Sylvia.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

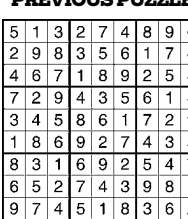


TODAY'S SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



JUMBLE CHAMPION

The Undisputed King of Puzzles!

TUINY
UOITY
MNAOW
WOMAN
EASRHP
PHRAISE
OAHCRN
ANCHOR

JUMBLE CHAMPION

JUMBLE Trouble

These Puzzles Are a Problem!

UTOJS
JOUST
CYRUL
CURLY
EBBUBL
BUBBLE
MNDETE
DEMENT

JUMBLE TROUBLE

JUMBLE Masterpiece

Crowning Achievement of Puzzles!

CCHKE
CCKCK
XIPEI
DIXIC
EMHYMA
MAYHEM
URTSCI
RUSTIC

JUMBLE MASTERPIECE

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SAVE 20%

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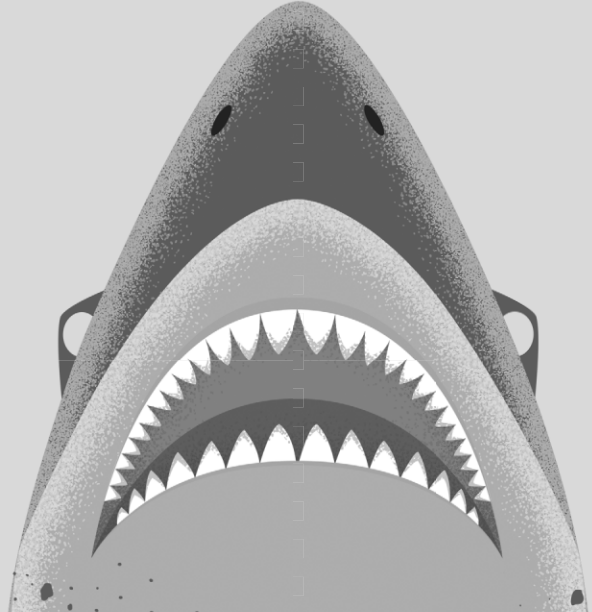
RISK OF PREDIABETES:
1 IN 3 ADULTS






RISK OF SHARK ATTACK:
1 IN 11.5 MILLION

LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU TIME TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME. PREDIABETES DOES.

TAKE THE RISK TEST TODAY AT
DolHavePrediabetes.org





Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

DAN REEVES REMEMBERED

A roster like family

South Catholic-Hartford brothers Dave and Doug Widell have fond memories of legendary coach, who reunited them with Broncos



Dom Amore

Training camp was winding down in August 1990. Cuts were coming in Dallas and Dave Widell felt in his bones the Cowboys were going to let him go, perhaps ending his career. Then he got a call from his

younger brother, Doug, in Denver. The Broncos needed a long-snapper, and coach Dan Reeves was about to trade two late draft picks to the Cowboys to add a second Widell. “Dan saved my NFL career,” Dave said. “I’m sure at the time he didn’t think it was such a huge move. “Dan Reeves reunited my brother and I on playoff team.” Reeves liked his players tough as boot leather. The Widell brothers, Hartford guys who played

for Len Corto at South Catholic High, were Reeves guys in the NFL, with him for some of his greatest triumphs and biggest disappointments. On New Year’s Day came the news that Reeves, 77, one of the NFL’s most prominent figures for a generation, died of complications from dementia, and it stirred the brothers’ memories of a special coach, a special time. “Dan and I stayed friends

Turn to Amore, Page 2



Dan Reeves was a tough, successful coach who quickly earned the respect of his players, like Hartford’s Dave and Doug Widell, who played for him in Denver. The Widells remembered their coach, who died Jan. 1, as a man you automatically respected. **AP FILE**

BASEBALL



UConn's Ryan Fuller gets a hit during a May 2012 game. **UConn ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS**

QUICK STUDY

An English teacher by day, Orioles co-hitting coach and former Husky Ryan Fuller used ‘virtual portfolio’ on social media for rapid rise in coaching

By Jon Meoli
Baltimore Sun

Years after Ryan Fuller delivered the biggest hit in UConn history, he popped on coach Jim Penders’ radar again — in the form of a request from his high-school-aged son. “Dad, I’ve got to get to this guy Ryan Fuller,” his son told him, not making the connection that the hitting instructor whose social media videos and progressive methods were sweeping across Connecticut was no stranger. “He was a famous hitting guy all of a sudden,” Penders said. “I [told my son], that was Ryan; he played third base. But it snuck up on me.” So, too, did all the opportunities that followed for Fuller, who upon joining the Orioles’ minor league staff three years ago was teaching high school English by day and giving hitting lessons by night. Now, at age 31, he’s a co-hitting coach for the Orioles, looking to further influence their rebuild with a unique approach to hitting. “It’s pretty remarkable what he’s done in such a short amount of time and at such a young age, to get into a major league dugout,” Penders said. Fuller grew up in Old Lyme, hoping to play for the Huskies but spent two years at UConn-Avery Point before he got the chance.



Before joining the Orioles’ organization before the 2020 season, Ryan Fuller, the team’s new co-hitting coach, was making a name for himself as a hitting guru on social media. **MARY DECICCO/AP**

Once he did, Fuller smoothly replaced first-round pick Mike Olt at third base; his walk-off single in the NCAA regional in 2011 at Clemson still lives in Husky lore. He signed as a free agent with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2012 with the hopes pro ball would be a chance to learn, only to find that wasn’t the situation he was in. The best players moved up, and all the rest — himself included — moved on. Fuller got into coaching at Quinnipiac University in 2013 but didn’t make enough to move out of his parents’ house. He posited he would as a financial advisor and earned the required certifications, only to remember teaching and coaching were his passions. So, Fuller got his master’s degree in English and took a job at Haddam-Killingworth High in Higganum, teaching English and coaching baseball. “That’s what I thought I’d do for the next 35 years,” Fuller said. “I thought that would be a pretty good life. But looking back now, I attribute most of my coaching strengths to my teaching career — being incredibly organized, being prepared with multiple contingency plans and more than anything else, learning how to connect with young adults who would rather be

Turn to Fuller, Page 4

UCONN WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

A bleak outlook

Auriemma is ‘not too optimistic’ will have enough players to play Friday at Villanova

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant


After a host of COVID-19 issues the past week, No. 11 UConn women’s basketball may still be a ways off from making its return to the floor. Coach Geno Auriemma told Bob Joyce on Monday’s “UConn WBB Coaches Show” that he is “not too optimistic” the team will have the minimum requirement of seven players to play in Friday’s scheduled game at Villanova. “We have to see if between now and Friday, someone can be ready to go,” Auriemma said. “But the problem that you run into is if someone comes off the [COVID-19] protocols, they still need five days of practice before they’re going to be able to play, so it doesn’t give you much time between today and Friday.” The Huskies have had their first three games back from the holiday break canceled, the first due to COVID-19 issues in Marquette’s program and the last two (at DePaul Dec. 31 and at Georgetown Jan. 5) due to COVID-19 issues among the Huskies. Auriemma didn’t specify the exact number of positive COVID-19 cases the program is dealing with, but said they had “a couple [test positive] right away” upon showing symptoms when they returned to Storrs on Dec. 26 and then “a couple more a day or two later, and so now the schedule [for returns] is staggered coming back.” He specified that one player tested positive at home and didn’t make the trip back to Storrs on the 26th. In line with recommendations from the Connecticut Department of Health, individuals who test positive must self-isolate for 10 days, not including the five days of return-to-practice time Auriemma said players need. He added that Azzi Fudd, Nika Mühl and Aubrey Griffin are not yet ready to make their returns from injury, which coupled with the absence of Paige Bueckers, means that the Huskies are still working with, at a baseline, eight available players. With those numbers, it would only take two positive COVID-19 cases for games to be canceled. While the program was hoping Fudd and Mühl would be able to return after the holidays,

Turn to UConn, Page 4



Safety Tip of the Day

In order to avoid choking, don’t offer these foods to children younger than four: chunky peanut butter, gum, taffy, gummy candies, caramels, marshmallows, jelly beans, dried fruits and fruit leathers.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: at Dolphins, Sunday, 4:25 p.m.
Giants: Washington, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Bills, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Seton Hall, Saturday, noon; St. John's (Gampel), Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.; at Providence, Jan. 15, 2 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Villanova, Friday, 7 p.m.; Creighton (Gampel), Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Butler, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
Celtics: Spurs, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Knicks, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Pacers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Celtics, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Pacers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Bucks, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Spurs, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Boston Coll., Saturday, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.; New Hampshire, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Wild, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Knights, Thursday, 10 p.m.; at Ducks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Rochester, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Utica, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Charlotte, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
6 p.m.: Ohio at Akron. (Live) CBSSN
6:30: Auburn at South Carolina. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: NC State at Virginia Tech. (Live) ACC
7 p.m.: Kentucky at LSU. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Oklahoma at Baylor. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Texas A&M at Georgia. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: Pacers at Knicks. (Live) MSG NBA
8 p.m.: Seton Hall at Butler. (Live) CBSSN
8:30 p.m.: Vanderbilt at Arkansas. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Georgia Tech at Duke. (Live) ACC
9 p.m.: Kansas at Oklahoma St. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Tulsa at Memphis. (Live) ESPNU
9 p.m.: Providence at Marquette. (Live) FS1
10:30 p.m.: Kings at Lakers. (Live) NBA
FOOTBALL
9 p.m.: Texas Bowl LSU vs. Kansas St. (Live) ESPN
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Devils at Bruins. (Live) NESN MSGPlus
TENNIS
6 a.m.: ATP Cup Group Stage; Adelaide 1-WTA, Melbourne 1 and 2-WTA Early Rounds. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Devils at Bruins. (Live) NESN MSGPlus
TENNIS
6 p.m.: ATP Cup Group Stage; Adelaide 1-WTA Early Rounds; Melbourne 1 and 2-WTA Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS



Patriots cornerback J.C. Jackson intercepts a pass intended for the Jaguars' Tavon Austin in the second quarter Sunday in Foxboro, Mass. **NANCY LANE/BOSTON HERALD**

PATRIOTS

Pats' confidence soaring after clinching playoff spot

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The Patriots' one-year, post-Tom Brady postseason drought is over because of their 50-10 rout of the Jaguars on Sunday.

Yet there's something resonating more in New England's locker room heading into the final week of the regular season. It's a sense that the team has the confidence back it lost after following up a season-high, seven-game winning streak with back-to-back losses to the Colts and Bills.

But with a small chance to still take the AFC East title Sunday with a win at Miami and a Bills loss to the Jets, the Patriots are refraining from patting themselves on the back.

"When you start the year, you want to be in the postseason," coach Bill Belichick said Monday. "The fact that we're one of the playoff teams is, obviously, part of the goal. Long way to go. We'll see what happens, but you certainly want to be playing in the postseason. That's the idea."

While their performance did come against a Jacksonville team just trying to make it to the finish line of a disastrous season, the Patriots did leave the game with plenty to build on.

The defense forced multiple turnovers for the first time in three games, improving their record to 7-1 this season when that occurs. The offense also finished drives, scoring all six times it reached the red zone.

Safety Adrian Phillips said it felt like the brand of football they want to play.

"We knew that this week we really had to go out there and play, go out there and dominate and don't worry about anything else," he said. "For us to go out there and do that ... is a step in the right direction. We just have to keep doing it."

Big contributions by two unlikely sources helped the Patriots take control Sunday against Jacksonville. Second-year receiver Kristian Wilkerson had the first

two touchdown catches of his career after being promoted from the practice squad for the second consecutive week, and rookie running back Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for a pair of scores.

It was the third appearance of the season for Wilkerson, who has spent most of the year on the practice squad, logging only seven offensive snaps prior to Sunday.

Stevenson was back on the field after spending last week on the reserve/COVID-19 list. He responded with a career-high 107 rushing yards on 19 carries. He carried the load for the rushing attack after Damien Harris was sidelined in the second half with a hamstring injury.

Stock up: Wilkerson. The second-year receiver added his name to New England's long list of undrafted players to make a significant impact within their first few seasons. He hauled in the first two touchdown catches of his career after being promoted from the practice squad for the second consecutive week. He got the snaps that had been going to N'Keal Harry. He was a healthy scratch Sunday after being limited early in the week with a hip issue.

Stock down: Harry. The 2019 first-round pick's prospects are not looking great following the performance by Wilkerson. Harry's agent made a surprise trade request prior to training camp and though Harry ultimately had a sit down with Belichick and remained on the roster, his production has continued to wane.

In his first two seasons, Harry logged 21 games and been targeted 81 times, totaling just 45 catches for 414 yards and four touchdowns. This season he has only 12 catches (21 targets) for 184 yards and no TDs in 11 games.

Injury report: Harris sat out most of the second half with a hamstring issue but said, "I'm good," when asked about his status postgame. Phillips said he was OK following a wrist injury that also cut his day short in the second half.

GIANTS

Glennon faces wrist surgery as club limps toward end of season

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants' season can't get over fast enough.

A campaign that started with the hope second-year coach Joe Judge and his team would build off a six-win first season and get back to the playoffs for the first time since 2016 has turned into a massive disappointment.

The Giants are 4-12 after Sunday's embarrassing 29-3 loss to the Bears in Chicago. They have five straight, double-digits losses by a combined 141-49. The three points were the fewest New York has scored in a game since Judge took over. It marked the third time in five games the offense failed to score a touchdown in a game with quarterback Daniel Jones sidelined with a neck injury.

Not only did the Giants lose but Judge disclosed Monday quarterback Mike Glennon hurt his left wrist — his non-throwing hand — and will require surgery. He will miss the final game.

All that is left is for the Giants is to play Washington on Sunday. It's an appropriate opponent. The teams met on a Thursday night in Week 2 and the Giants lost 30-29 on a field goal by Dustin Hopkins on the final play. He actually missed the kick the first time but got a second chance because Dexter Lawrence went offside.

That's how things went

this season. There were mistakes on and off the field (free agency), a multitude of injuries, especially on the offensive line, and players having bad seasons.

There were many steps backward instead of forward, and there will be consequences.

Hired in December 2017 to turn around the struggling franchise, general manager Dave Gettleman probably will be gone after a fourth straight season with double-digit losses.

The way the team has finished, one has to wonder whether co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch are having major concerns about Judge's future. If he is fired, it would be the third straight coach they sent packing after two seasons, joining Ben McAdoo and Pat Shurmur.

Judge insisted after Sunday's game that he has a hard-working, professional team that is on track to turn things around. While that's fine to say, watching this team — which lost its sixth straight on the road — hurts the eyes.

The defense hasn't been bad. The Bears scored 29 points, 19 courtesy of the offense and special teams. The first 14 followed turnovers, and the TD drives covered 2 and 24 yards. When returner Pharoh Cooper botched a kickoff late in the first half, it led to a safety and field goal in the final 52 seconds.

Giving up 10 points in the NFL is a good game for any defense.

JETS

Wilson's solid finish to rookie season is promising

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The most important number among all of Zach Wilson's recent statistics is zero.

That's how many interceptions the New York Jets' rookie quarterback has thrown in his last four games. No passer in the franchise's history has had that kind of streak in his first season.

Not even Joe Namath.

It's absolutely a sign of progress, especially when you consider Wilson tossed four interceptions in Week 2 and had nine through five games. The uneasiness over whether the No. 2 overall pick might be a turn-over-prone passer who has trouble reading defenses has

begun to fade — as Wilson's confidence is growing.

"Yeah, I think I'm just starting to get a better grasp of the offense," Wilson said after the Jets' 28-24 loss to Tom Brady and Tampa Bay on Sunday. "I thought Mike's done an amazing job — LaFleur — just putting me in a good position. I just feel comfortable with what's going on."

Jets fans have been through a vicious cycle for decades: The team drafts a quarterback who's hailed as a franchise savior — the next Broadway Joe — followed by excitement and talk of unlimited potential. And then it eventually fades into unfulfilled promise, and the search is on again.

Wilson is the next in that long line, and it didn't start off well.

Amore

from Page 1

forever," Dave Widell said. "As good as an NFLer as you'll ever see as a player and coach. He was even a greater man. I know everyone says that, but it's true, if you knew Dan."

Having covered Reeves daily during his four seasons with the Giants, I still smile remembering his friendly manner and folksy stories, usually about his mentor, Tom Landry. He limped on a leg scarred and disfigured by multiple knee surgeries, but had a competitive streak and a scowl that could wither even a 300-pound lineman. Brutally honest, he was a product of a brutal era of pro football from which many, like Reeves, suffered the effects for the rest of their lives.

"He got a bad hand here," Dave Widell said. "He should still be out playing golf with his family and friends."

Doug, picked by Reeves in the second round of the 1989 draft, admits to being a little intimidated at first.

"When I think of Dan, No.1, he was extremely professional," Doug said. "He was the coach that you just automatically had respect for, not so much because of the position he had as much just his presence and everything about him. He is everything about the NFL. He is the history of the NFL, so automatically his presence was felt."

Dave and Doug Widell, who were also teammates at Boston College, are believed to be the



Images of John Madden and Dan Reeves are flashed on the screen before Sunday's game between the Los Angeles Chargers and the Denver Broncos. The NFL lost both coaching legends last week. **JAEC. HONG/AP**

first brothers to start together on a modern NFL offensive line.

"Because family was important to Dan," Dave Widell said, "I think he loved the fact we were brothers and we got along and that we made each other better. He loved our work ethic, although I was a more reluctant worker than my brother. I had to be led by him to get into the weight room."

Reeves made Doug a starter at guard as a rookie as the Broncos made it to Super Bowl XXIV, where they lost, in epic proportions, 55-10 to the 49ers. The brothers were teammates from 1990 until Reeves was fired in 1992. Dave, who could fill in at any line position, later rejoined Reeves with the Falcons, where Reeves, returning to work a few weeks after open-heart surgery,

reached, and lost, Super Bowl XXIII to the Broncos, 34-19.

"You want to say as a player and a coach, you're going to beat yourself up for a day or two after the game and then forget about it," Doug Widell said. "But there is no doubt in my mind those losses bothered him. Every profession feels like you're measured on the wins. Just getting to the Super Bowl is not enough. I'm sure it bothered him and it drove him to keep getting back."

Four Super Bowl losses by a total of 110 points came to define Reeves' career for many, who devalue all it took to reach the big game four times, or that as player, assistant and head coach, he participated in nine Super Bowl Sundays, winning as player and offensive coordinator with Dallas.

Reeves won 201 games as a head coach, including 11 playoff games, and was coach of the year with the Giants and Falcons.

"He's always nominated for the Hall of Fame, never a finalist," Dave Widell said. "Some people's achievements become more important after their death. You know, 'Dan's the kind of guy we can put in the Hall of Fame in his 80s.' Guess what? We all lost that opportunity now. Dan deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

Reeves made the Cowboys as an undrafted rookie in 1965, and he became a favorite of Landry, who used him as running back, often to throw the ball on trick plays, including a TD pass in the unforgettable Ice Bowl in Green Bay in 1967. In his last year as a player, Reeves was also an assis-

tant coach, all but unheard of today, and Dallas won Super Bowl VI.

He became the Broncos' head coach in 1982, and despite three Super Bowl appearances, he was often in conflict with Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway, which also hurt Reeves' public perception.

"It had more to do with the fact they were both so competitive," Doug Widell said. "Dan had his way of how he wanted to do it, John had his ideas on how we could best win, and they clashed at times. I don't know that if they had the same exact thought, would that have been better for the team? Maybe, maybe not. In the end, we got to the Super Bowl and I don't think what happened had anything to do with their relationship."

All the Widells, Dave, 56, Doug, 55, their parents, wives and children have settled in the Jacksonville, Fla., area. Dave is a financial advisor. Doug works in sales for an industrial manufacturer.

Dave Widell said he and Reeves spoke a few times a year, and Reeves, who lived near Atlanta, was always available to help with his charitable work on behalf of military causes.

"Dan was a family man, respectful, a man of God, and all those things you saw in him," Doug Widell said. "He was a man of character, and he held himself in a way you wanted to emulate him. He was an excellent football coach, had a lot of success, but in the end he was a good man."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com.

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Cold comfort: Pack top seed in NFC



Aaron Rodgers and the Packers once again have made sure they won't have to leave Lambeau Field for the conference playoffs. They're hoping it works out better for them this time. Rodgers threw two TD passes, A.J. Dillon ran for two more scores and the Packers routed the Vikings 37-10 on Sunday night in Green Bay, to wrap up the NFC's No. 1 playoff seed. The Packers (13-3) are the lone NFL team with an unbeaten home record and have a chance to reach the Super Bowl without leaving Lambeau. Sunday night's game exemplified the potential advantage the Packers have playing home games in January, as the temperature was 11 degrees with a wind chill of 1 at kickoff. The Packers have won 13 straight regular-season home games but lost 31-26 at home to the Buccaneers in last season's NFC title game. The Packers haven't reached the Super Bowl since their 2010 title and have lost in the conference championship game four of the last seven seasons. "Last year we didn't get that good Green Bay weather," Rodgers, above, said. "Tonight ... was different."

Warriors' wait for Klay nearly over



The wait could soon be over for Warriors fans hoping to see Klay Thompson return to the court. The Warriors expect to decide Friday if Thompson will play Sunday when they take on the Cavaliers at home. ESPN reported that there's "optimism" around the team that Thompson will play this weekend. The Warriors hosted the Heat on Monday night before hitting the road for games against the Mavericks and Pelicans on Wednesday and Thursday. The Sunday home game is a one-off before a four-game trip. The Warriors have made it clear that they plan for Thompson, above, to return to action — and start games — with a home debut. The next home game after Sunday is Jan. 18 against the Pistons. Thompson has been out since tearing his ACL in Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals, then tearing his Achilles tendon in November 2020. Without him, the Warriors still hold the top spot in the NBA's Western Conference, but adding a five-time all-star and one of the best shooters in league history, even if he's been diminished by injuries, would be a boon for their title chances.

Shiffrin back after short absence



Mikaela Shiffrin is set to return to the women's World Cup at a slalom Tuesday, eight days after she announced she tested positive for COVID-19 and was forced out of two races in Austria last week. Shiffrin had a negative test Monday afternoon before the American's name appeared on the official start list for the race released by the International Ski Federation. "See you tomorrow, Zagreb," Shiffrin wrote on Instagram. Shiffrin, who has won the event four times since 2013, missed a giant slalom and slalom in Lienz last week but remained in the lead of the overall Cup standings. She's 93 points ahead of Sofia Goggia. The Italian speed specialist, who hasn't competed in slalom for five years, is absent in Croatia. Petra Vlhova, who's Shiffrin's main rival in slalom, won the race in Austria last week and increased her lead over the American in the discipline standings to 120 points after four of nine races. Vlhova, who will open the slalom Tuesday, has won the floodlit race the last two years. No spectators will be allowed at the race on the outskirts of the Croatian capital. —News services



Antonio Brown's troubled tenure in the NFL took another strange turn during the Buccaneers' game Sunday. ELSA/GETTY

NFL COMMENTARY

It's not OK to look away

Brown may be out as Buc, but he still needs support

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Antonio Brown tossed his jersey and shoulder pads toward the bench, threw his glove and undershirt into the stands and ran off the field bare-chested, waving a peace-out sign to fans in the end zone while Tom Brady huddled the offense for an important play. Following his strange outburst Sunday, Brown is out as a member of the Buccaneers and one can only hope he finds peace. Brown's bizarre behavior quickly blew up on social media and dominated NFL headlines around the league on a day when Brady engineered another impressive comeback and several teams clinched playoff berths. But Brown's mental health is no joke to be trivialized by a meme. It's easy to pile on the four-time All-Pro wide receiver, especially after he was suspended three games for misrepresenting his COVID-19 vaccination status — and a troubled past that includes sexual assault allegations, including rape. However, Brown clearly needs help. His on-field, in-game meltdown was the latest troubling incident in a career filled with big plays and absurd actions. Brown wore out his welcome with the Steelers, was released by the Raiders before even playing a game for them in 2019 and lasted one game with the Patriots.

He got another chance in the NFL with Brady and the Bucs last year after serving an eight-game suspension for multiple violations of the league's personal-conduct policy, and he ended up winning a Super Bowl ring. Even Brady couldn't save his buddy's roster spot with the Bucs after this latest incident. "It's a difficult situation," Brady said after throwing a 33-yard touchdown pass to Cyril Grayson with 15 seconds remaining to lead the Bucs (12-4) to a 28-24 win over the Jets (4-12). "Everybody should do what they can to help him in ways that he really needs it. We all love him. We care about him deeply. We want to see him be at his best. Unfortunately, it won't be with our team. ... I think everyone should be very compassionate and empathetic toward some very difficult things that are happening." Bucs coach Bruce Arians rescinded the one-strike policy he originally gave Brown and brought him back after his most recent suspension. Brown made it easy for Arians to get rid of him this time. "He is no longer a Buc," Arians said. "All right? That's the end of the story. Let's talk about the guys who went out there and won the game." According to an NFL Network report Monday, Brown is claiming he felt too injured to return to Sunday's game. He'd missed several weeks with an ankle injury and had been limited leading up to Week 17 after tweaking it in practice. Brown said the offensive coaches and Arians essentially gave him an ultimatum, telling him "If you are not gonna go into the game when we

tell you to go into the game, then you cannot be here." Brown's career in the NFL is most likely over. It's hard to imagine another team would give the 33-year-old an opportunity and risk all the drama he brings. Still, Brown should get the benefit of various mental health services the NFL offers players and team personnel. The league and the players' union have plenty of resources available for anybody who needs it — if they ask for it. While Brown deserves criticism for quitting on his team during a game — the Bucs were facing a third-and-7 and trailed 24-10 in the third quarter when he walked out — the mercurial seven-time Pro Bowl pick needs support from his friends and those close to him. "I instantly sent him a text," said Le'Veon Bell, the former Steelers star who played his second game with the Bucs. "Obviously, he texted me back, and I talked to him. He's still one of my close friends. You won't hear me talking bad about AB at all. Obviously, I understand things happen, but he's one of my closest friends, a close teammate. Overall, he's a good person. Some bad decision-making sometimes but he's human, he's not perfect, and we'll continue to move on without him and keep moving forward." If Brown's career is over, he'll finish with 928 receptions, 12,291 yards receiving and 83 TD catches. Browns' stats are certainly worthy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but it'll be tough to convince voters to overlook the character concerns. For now, Brown has more important matters to address.

CFP CHAMPIONSHIP

For Smart, legacy on line in title game

By Charles Odum
Associated Press


Kirby Smart did his best to get ahead of the questions about Nick Saban while acknowledging the topic was inevitable. It seems the Georgia coach can't avoid Saban, when championships — and Smart's big-game legacy — are on the line. Smart is 0-4 against Saban, his former boss at Alabama. That includes Georgia's 41-24 loss to Saban's Crimson Tide in the SEC championship game Dec. 4 in Atlanta. Smart fielded questions about Saban prior to that game before earning a rematch when the Bulldogs beat Michigan 34-11 on Friday night in the College Football Playoff semifinal. The Georgia coach insisted Monday that the Georgia-Alabama rematch for the national title isn't about Smart versus Saban. "Each game has been different," Smart said. "And it will never be about he and I. I know he won't make it that and I won't make it that, because that's for you guys to do that." Smart's Georgia legacy is on the line. That's about more than how he compares with Saban, already assured of being remembered as one of the greatest coaches in college football history.



Georgia coach Kirby Smart, above, is 0-4 against Nick Saban and Alabama. REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

As Smart wraps up his sixth season at his alma mater, the national championship game will help determine his place in Georgia history. That includes how he will be judged in comparison with his predecessor, Mark Richt, as well as Vince Dooley, who won Georgia's last national championship in 1980. Smart was hired to give Georgia the push it lacked to win the biggest games. He was hired to bring championships to the Bulldogs. So far, Smart trails Richt. Thanks to the humbling loss to the Crimson Tide last month, Smart remains stuck on one SEC title, in 2017. Richt won two SEC championships in his first five seasons in Athens. Smart's big-game history also includes an overtime loss to the Crimson Tide in the 2017 national championship game. By bringing the Bulldogs to another national title game, Smart has made Georgia a regular part of the championship picture. He has brought Georgia to the biggest games. Saban has blocked Smart's path to big-game success. Smart can change that script by winning the biggest game of all in his second national title appearance against Alabama. Saban has won seven national championships, including six in the last 12 years at Alabama. He's looking for back-to-back titles with the Crimson Tide. Smart was the defensive coordinator on Saban's Alabama staff before he was hired to lead Georgia's program. Smart's Bulldogs were 12-0 following their first undefeated regular season since 1982 and on track for their first national championship in 41 years before the SEC title game loss to Alabama. Sure, Smart doesn't deny that Saban and Alabama are a hurdle the Bulldogs haven't yet cleared. Smart says he's not alone. Smart said the Crimson Tide "have also been a problem and a thorn for any team they've played besides ours. We have that in common with a lot of teams." Smart knew better than to celebrate Friday's runaway rout of Michigan in the Orange Bowl. He called a timeout and put a firm roadblock on plans by running backs Zamir White and James Cook to empty a watercooler on his head at the end of the game. Playoff semifinal wins don't merit watercooler baths. Only minutes after the game, Smart already was looking ahead to Alabama. "I was wanting to get a real shower, not a Gatorade bath, because I want to get focused on Alabama," Smart said after Friday's win, before adding, "To be honest with you guys, I'm not interested in celebrating that."

Today's bowl game



TEXAS BOWL
Kansas State (7-5) vs. LSU (6-6)
9 p.m., ESPN

NOTABLE
Kansas State: The Wildcats started the season with a 7-3 record before closing the regular season with losses to Baylor and Texas.
LSU: The Tigers won their final two games, including a victory over Texas A&M, to even their record and become bowl eligible. LSU will look to close out the season with a win under interim coach Brad Davis.

— Associated Press

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Villanova, 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: at Seton Hall, noon, FOX

UConn
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UConn recruit Donovan Clingan is averaging 27.3 points, 17.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 5.8 blocks this season for

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL RECRUIT SCOUTING REPORT

Donovan Clingan

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

As the UConn men's basketball team finds itself with a little bit of a break until facing Seton Hall on Saturday, let's take a closer look at the Class of 2022 and Class of 2023 commits. Currently, UConn has commitments from Class of 2022 recruits Donovan Clingan and Alex Karaban along with Class of 2023 recruit Stephon Castle.

Today we'll focus on Connecticut's own Donovan Clingan.

Recruit Information

Name: Donovan Clingan
School: Bristol Central
Class: 2022
Height: 7-1
Weight: 260
Stats: 27.3 points, 17.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 5.8 blocks in his 2020-21 season
Rankings: No. 50 in the Class of 2022 according to 247sports
Accolades: 2020 Connecticut Basketball Gatorade Player of the Year

Strengths

- Great touch for a big man.

- Soft hands with impressive moves in the post.
- Tenacious rebounder who, if he can't secure the ball, will tap out to teammates.
- Great court vision and willing passer from anywhere on the court, which allows the offense to run through him.
- Handles double teams well and will pass out to open shooters effectively.
- Decisive, which helps limit mistakes.
- Hard worker who has improved his game every season.
- Shooting is steadily improving and can make the open jumper when required.
- Motivated to improve on his weaknesses.

Weaknesses

- Needs to get stronger.
- Foot speed needs to improve on the defensive end.
- Has a tendency to get frozen at times on the defensive end and let guys get by him.
- Can get into foul trouble.
- Sometimes tries to chase blocks, which leads to bad defense.
- Needs to improve endurance.
- Continue to improve overall

athleticism.

NCAA player comparison

- Shades of former UConn center Travis Knight (build, touch around rim, rim protection)
- Shades of former Duke Blue Devil Wendell Carter Jr. (rebounding, post game)
- Shades of current Purdue Boilermaker Trevion Williams (post game, passing ability)

Summary

Clingan isn't like your typical UConn big that tends to be raw on the offensive end. He is very polished offensively. He possesses skills that can't be taught. He has elite floor awareness to pass out of the post, which will make him a dangerous offensive talent in college. His biggest issues are those that UConn coach Dan Hurley will focus on, which will be making sure he moves his feet quicker on defense and puts on some more muscle. UConn might have to change its style of a play a bit to adjust to Clingan's game. Overall, he has the potential to be a special talent.

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies still unranked in latest AP poll

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

UConn remains unranked in the latest Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll released Monday. UConn (10-3, 1-1) had its two games against Xavier and Butler canceled last week due to COVID-19 issues within the program. The Huskies received 39 votes.

According to UConn coach Dan Hurley, nine players have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of it. The team is fully vaccinated though not everyone has had the booster.

The top three teams remain the same as last week with Baylor at No.1, Duke No. 2, and Purdue No. 3.

UConn's next chance to play comes Saturday when the

Huskies head on the road to face Big East rival Seton Hall. The last game UConn played was on Dec. 21 when the Huskies defeated Marquette, 78-70.

The Big East has four teams represented in Top 25 with Providence at No. 16, Villanova No. 19, Xavier No. 22 and Seton Hall No. 24.

UConn's Tyrese Martin and R.J. Cole made Big East Honor roll.

UConn

from Page 1

Auriemma said Monday of those two and Griffin, "Wouldn't have had those three no matter what. They're not ready to go."

If anything, it sounds like Mühl, who has been dealing with a nagging foot injury from last season, could be the farthest ahead in her recovery, as Auriemma said she was out on the floor Monday "doing some small things today and hopefully a little more as each day goes on."

As they wait to get the injured/ill players back, the Huskies have been fairly limited in what they can do during practice, focusing on getting shots up, some break-

downs in and trying to get their conditioning back. Their last game came Dec. 19 against Louisville, at 69-64 loss.

Regardless of when the Huskies get the requisite number of players back, they have a rescheduling dilemma on their hands, as they are now looking at three, and maybe four, games to reschedule. Rescheduling is handled at the discretion of the Big East, which has yet to announce any makeup dates. Part of the complication is that, as of now, the conference does not want teams to play three games per week in consecutive weeks, according to the Ashbury Park Press.

In Auriemma's eyes, something may have to give.

"There's two or three games

every week going forward, so I don't know where you actually find space to put these games in, but who knows what more is going to transpire going forward, how many more openings there's going to be somewhere down the line?" he said. "But that's the biggest challenge right now: How do we find spaces for these games that we missed?"

"I think as you started looking at, 'When do we fill in these games?' you're going to have to start to make a decision, 'Well playing three games a week for a couple weeks in a row, that might be the way you have to go.' I don't know."

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Fuller

from Page 1

doing anything else than reading 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and going over motifs."

It wasn't long into teaching that baseball grew to an outsized role. He wanted to provide the athletes whose families paid him with a different experience than they might have had with more traditional coaching. The curiosity as to how came naturally.

In college, he'd spend hours watching YouTube clips of elite hitters. As a coach, he dived into biomechanics and its relation to the swing, then dug into how those skills are developed and transferred from practice to games.

He started with younger athletes but enjoyed the complex problems — and the research required to help solve them — that more advanced hitters presented. He eschewed easy drill work for more challenging and variable tasks, and "it was always described as fun and disguised as competition," he said.

"When we started doing that, it was like, holy smokes, they're getting better quicker and I'm saying way less as a coach," Fuller said. "So, creating these really fun practice designs was something that led me on this path of continued learning of how skill actually develops and transfers to the game. When I did that, the players were not only more engaged but had a lot more success when they would leave, too."

He later worked at The PIT, a hitting facility in Niantic, where owner Tim Burrows said Fuller's social media presence caught their eye as they sought instructors. He said they "speak the same language" in terms of getting the barrel to the ball early, staying in the zone a long time and matching pitch plane. Fuller was attracted to the live batted ball data provided by their HitTrax system.

"The one thing I'd take from him is it was never a one cookie-cutter approach for hitters," Burrows said. "He built relationships with hitters at our facility and customized plans based off their inefficiencies."

One such client was Connor Podeszwa, Connecticut's 2021 Gatorade Player of the Year and son of UConn assistant Chris Podeszwa. Connor Podeszwa was always more of a pitcher, but vowed in the winter of 2018 to make himself into a hitter. That offseason with Fuller their work produced a better swing and a jump of over 10 mph in his average exit velocity and 100 feet in average distance.

The HitTrax data reinforced what they were doing was working, but so did Fuller.

"When we were hitting and you had a really good round or got ahold of one, he'd always be more excited for you than you were," Connor Podeszwa said. "You'd piece up a ball and you'd feel really good, but he's back behind the L-screen jumping and all pumped up for you — it just makes you really good as a player."

The younger Podeszwa loved the unique drills Fuller presented, and more importantly, understood why they were benefiting him.

"He would talk about some of the drills they'd do, and I'd have to have him explain to me," his father said. "What are you doing? Why are you doing this? What's the theory behind you doing this?" And he was able to communicate that to me, my son. So, if he was able to communicate it to me, Ryan was doing a great job communicating those things to him."

At the encouragement of his now-wife, Georgia, Fuller put some of those drills on social media. He was pouring hours into finding solutions for his athletes, and they figured sharing it could help him attract more clients in the process.

It quickly grew. Each video would garner thousands of new

followers in what Fuller called "the 'Wild West of the Instagram days.'" His pages include hitters smacking soft PlyoCare balls that only travel far when struck solidly on the barrel, "skeet-shooting" with batted balls off the tee as Fuller tosses softballs out into the cage, and countless other swing breakdowns.

His Instagram grew to over 60,000 followers and allowed Fuller to interface with other hitting minds from inside and outside pro ball. His page — which came to represent what he calls a "virtual portfolio" — helped him gain the Orioles' attention in the fall of 2019. He wasn't prepared for the cross-roads he'd arrived at but figured the comfortable life he so enjoyed would be available if professional baseball wasn't for him.

He was hired as the hitting coach for Low-A Delmarva as part of director of player development Matt Blood's revamping of the hitting program for the 2020 season.

Fuller worried he'd flop, that his background wouldn't be enough to influence even low-minors hitters. Because of the pandemic, he instead spent the summer at the Orioles' alternate site with major league hitters and top prospects.

He and fellow newcomer Anthony Villa decided they could only teach how, and what, they knew, which doubled as the Orioles' philosophies of improving swing decisions, hard consistent contact and doing damage.

There was some pushback on changing the regular routine, but success ended that, both in Bowie and Baltimore. DJ Stewart left the alternate site and went on a home run binge. Austin Hays and Cedric Mullins had strong Septembers upon recall after previously struggling. Ryan Mountcastle debuted from the alternate site and looked immediately like he belonged. Some of those players texted Fuller after games to relay how prepared they felt, and those messages helped build buy-in for the prospects at the alternate site.

The message was simple: "They want to get better, and if you show value in what you're teaching, they're going to keep coming back to it if they're getting better," Fuller said.

That was also the case at Double-A Bowie this year where Fuller, in addition to in his role as full-season hitting coordinator, helped create a program that led to widespread improvement across the Orioles farm.

Orioles full-season affiliates enjoyed a 37-point jump in OPS from 2019 to 2021, with home run and walk rates up as well. Fuller said the staff under manager Buck Britton at Bowie was one that melded the learning and development required for growth with the grind of a 120-game season well. Fuller had a chance to test and refine many of his theories and practices in a seasonlong environment. Many paid off.

"This year was a huge confidence booster of taking theory, putting it into action and seeing it in production," he said.

So, too, was the opportunity to interview for the Orioles' major league hitting coach job when executive vice president and general manager Mike Elias offered that opportunity. Instead of being strictly a coordinator in 2022, Fuller will be in the major league dugout working alongside Matt Borgschulte to take the cutting-edge practices that have worked in player development to the results-based environment of the big leagues.

"We have a really unique opportunity to have a completely unified hitting department from the [Dominican Republic] all the way to the big leagues," Fuller said. "That was something intriguing for not just me, but for the entire hitting staff, where when a guy goes from Double A to Triple A to the big leagues, he's not missing a step. I know we're super excited for that."

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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	23	12	.657	—
Philadelphia	20	16	.556	3 ½
Boston	18	19	.486	6
Toronto	16	17	.485	6
New York	17	20	.459	7
SOUTHEAST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	23	14	.622	—
Washington	19	18	.514	4
Charlotte	19	19	.500	4 ½
Atlanta	16	19	.457	6
Orlando	7	30	.189	16
CENTRAL				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	24	10	.706	—
Milwaukee	25	13	.658	1
Cleveland	21	16	.568	4 ½
Indiana	14	23	.378	11 ½
Detroit	6	28	.176	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	24	14	.632	—
Dallas	18	18	.500	5
San Antonio	14	21	.400	8 ½
New Orleans	13	23	.361	10
Houston	10	28	.263	14
NORTHWEST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	26	10	.722	—
Denver	18	16	.529	7
Minnesota	16	20	.444	10
Portland	13	22	.371	12 ½
Oklahoma City	13	23	.361	13
PACIFIC				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	28	7	.800	—
Phoenix	28	8	.778	½
L.A. Clippers	19	18	.514	10
L.A. Lakers	19	19	.500	10 ½
Sacramento	16	22	.421	13 ½

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 133, Houston 113
Washington 124, Charlotte 121
Memphis 118, Brooklyn 104
Detroit at Milwaukee, late
Orlando at Chicago, late
Utah at New Orleans, late
Denver at Dallas, late
Atlanta at Portland, late
Miami at Golden State, late
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Memphis at Cleveland, 7p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7p.m.
Indiana at New York, 7:30p.m.
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Detroit at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Houston at Washington, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 7p.m.
Brooklyn at Indiana, 7:30p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 7:30p.m.
San Antonio at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Atlanta at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10p.m.
Utah at Denver, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 120, New York 105
Sacramento 115, Miami 113
Cleveland 108, Indiana 104
Boston 116, Orlando 111, OT
Dallas 95, Oklahoma City 86
Phoenix 133, Charlotte 99
L.A. Lakers 108, Minnesota 103

TENNIS

WTA ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL
Monday at Memorial Drive Tennis
Centre, Australia, outdoor-hardcourt

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

#3 Maria Sakkari d. Tamara Zidansek,
6-2, 0-6, 6-4.

#7 Elena Rybakina d. Storm Sanders,
6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

Kaja Juvan d. Chloe Paquet 6-4, 6-2.

Ajla Tomljanovic d. Heather Watson,
6-4, 7-6(5).

Leylah Annie Fernandez d.
Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-3, 6-4.

Priscilla Hon d. Petra Kvitova,
6-7(4), 7-5, 6-2.

Shelby Rogers d. Madison Inglis, 6-1, 6-3.

Elina Svitolina vs. Anastasia Gasanova, late

Iga Swiatek vs. Daria Saville, late

ATP CUP: U.S. vs. GERMANY

Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) d. John Isner,
7-6(7), 4-6, 7-5.

Alexander Zverev (Ger) vs. Taylor
Fritz, late

Kevin Krawietz/ Tim Puetz (Ger) vs.
Taylor Fritz/John Isner, late

ATP MURRAY RIVER OPEN

Monday at Melbourne Park;
Melbourne, Australia, outdoor-hard

men's SINGLES, ROUND OF 32

#7 Laslo Djere d. Roberto Carballes
Baeza, 7-5, 7-6(1).

#8 Kwon Soon Woo d.
Yoshihito Nishioka, 6-1, 6-2.

Thiago Monteiro d. Daniel Altmaier,
6-2, 3-6, 7-6(2).

Steve Johnson d. Aleksandar Vukic,
6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Corentin Moutet d. Holger Rune, 7-6(6),
6-4.

Taro Daniel vs. Lorenzo Musetti, late

Alex Bolt vs. Juan Cerundolo, late

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	
at Arkon		Ohio	
Auburn	10½	at South Carolina	
Illinois	1	at Minnesota	
Texas A&M	6	at Georgia	
Michigan	4	at Rutgers	
Kent State	1½	at Ball State	
Toledo	12	at Cent. Michigan	
E. Michigan	2½	at W. Michigan	
at LSU		Kentucky	
at Baylor	13	Oklahoma	
Texas	6	at Kansas State	
at Virginia Tech	10	NC State	
at Wake Forest	1½	Florida State	
Seton Hall	3½	at Butler	
at Arkansas	7	Vanderbilt	
Kanss	6½	at Oklahoma St.	
Providence	2	at Marquette	
at Colorado St.	20	Air Force	
at Duke	18	Georgia Tech	
at Clemson	4	Virginia	
at Memphis	13½	Tulsa	
at CS-Fullerton	8	Long Beach St.	

COLLEGE FOOTBALL			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG
Texas Bowl			
Kansas State	6½	(47½)	LSU
FCS playoffs			Monday
North Dakota St.	8	42	Montana State
CFP National Championship			Monday
Georgia	3	(52½)	Alabama
NFL WEEK 18			SATURDAY
FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG
Kansas City	10	(44)	at Denver
Dallas	6½	(42½)	at Philadelphia
SUNDAY			
at Tampa Bay	8	(42½)	Carolina
New Orleans	4½	(40½)	at Atlanta
at Buffalo	16½	(44)	NY Jets
New England	6½	(40)	at Miami
at Detroit	1½	4½	Green Bay
at Minnesota	2½	4½	Chicago
Indianapolis	16	4½	at Jacksonville
Tennessee	10	4½	at Houston
Washington	6½	38½	at NY Giants
at Baltimore	4	4½	Pittsburgh
at Cleveland	1½	4½	Cincinnati
at Arizona	6½	48	Seattle
at LA Rams	5	44	San Francisco
LA Chargers	3	(48½)	at Las Vegas

For the latest odds, go to
FanDuel Sportsbook,
https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Tampa Bay	34	21	8	5	47	109	101		
Florida	32	21	7	4	46	122	95		
Toronto	31	21	8	2	44	104	76		
Boston	28	16	10	2	34	80	73		
Detroit	33	15	15	3	33	90	112		
Buffalo	33	10	17	6	26	89	116		
Ottawa	29	9	18	2	20	79	107		
Montreal	34	7	23	4	18	73	123		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
N.Y. Rangers	34	22	8	4	48	101	85		
Washington	30	20	6	8	48	119	89		
Carolina	31	23	7	1	47	106	66		
Pittsburgh	31	18	8	5	41	99	81		
Philadelphia	32	13	13	6	32	85	106		
Columbus	30	15	14	1	31	99	105		
New Jersey	33	13	15	5	31	96	116		
N.Y. Islanders	28	10	12	6	26	64	80		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
St. Louis	33	19	9	5	43	116	91		
Nashville	33	20	11	2	42	101	89		
Minnesota	31	19	10	2	40	116	98		
Colorado	28	18	8	2	38	119	93		
Winnipeg	31	15	11	5	35	95	91		
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85		
Chicago	32	11	17	4	26	74	108		
Arizona	30	6	21	3	15	63	117		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Vegas	35	22	12	1	45	127	107		
Anaheim	35	17	11	7	41	107	98		
Calgary	30	17	7	6	40	98	67		
Edmonton	33	18	13	2	38	111	107		
Los Angeles	32	16	12	5	37	91	89		
San Jose	33	17	15	1	35	94	102		
Vancouver	34	16	15	3	35	89	95		
Seattle	33	10	19	4	24	92	122		

MONDAY'S RESULTS

N.Y. Rangers 4, Edmonton 1
Car. at Toronto, ppd Min. at Ottawa, ppd

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Calgary at Florida, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7p.m.
Tampa Bay at Columbus, 7p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Winnipeg at Arizona, 9p.m.
Nashville at Vegas, 10p.m.
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10p.m.
Was. at Mon., ppd NYlat Seattle, ppd

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

N.Y. Rangers 4, Tampa Bay 0
Pittsburgh 8, San Jose 5
Boston 5, Detroit 1
Colorado 4, Anaheim 2
New Jersey 4, Washington 3, OT
Winnipeg 5, Vegas 4, OT
Calgary 5, Chicago 1
Dallas at Arizona, ppd

ALL-STAR FAN VOTE LEADERS

Atlantic: Auston Matthews, C, Tor 16.9%
Atlantic: Steven Stamkos, C, TB 11.0%
Atlantic: Patrice Bergeron, C, Bos 7.4%
Metropolitan: Alex Ovechkin, RW, Was30.5%
Metropolitan: Sidney Crosby, C, Pit 14.1%
Metropolitan: Sebastian Aho, C, Car 6.9%
Central: Nathan MacKinnon, C, Col 13.9%
Central: Kirill Kaprizov, LW, Min 10.2%
Central: Cale Makar, D, Col 8.3%
Pacific: Connor McDavid, C, Edm 28.7%
Pacific: Leon Draisaitl, C, Edm 11.1%
Pacific: Trevor Zegras, C, Ana 6.8%
Pacific: Matthew Tkachuk, LW, Cgy 3.9%
*Top vote-getters by division named
All-Stars and captains. Rosters for the
All-Star Game will be unveiled Jan. 13.*

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
x-Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	456	279			
x-New England	10	6	0	.625	438	270			
e-Miami	8	8	0	.500	308	349			
e-N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	300	477			
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
y-Tennessee	11	5	0	.688	391	329			
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	440	339			
e-Houston	4	12	0	.250	255	424			
e-Jacksonville	2	14	0	.125	227	446			
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
y-Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	444	355			
Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500	301	371			
Baltimore	8	8	0	.500	374	376			
e-Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	314	329			
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA			
y-Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	452	340			
L.A. Chargers	9	7	0	.563	442	424			
Las Vegas	9	7	0	.563	339	407			
Denver	7	9	0	.438	311	294			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	5	0	.688	479	332
x-Philadelphia	9	7	0	.563	418	334
e-Washington	6	10	0	.375	313	427
e-N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250	251	394
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
y-Tampa Bay	12	4	0	.750	470	336
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	334	315
e-Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	293	429
e-Carolina	5	11	0	.313	287	363
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
z-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	420	334
e-Minnesota	7	9	0	.438	394	409
e-Chicago	6	10	0	.375	294	376
e-Detroit	2	13	1	.156	288	437
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
x-L.A. Rams	12	4	0	.750	436	345
x-Arizona	11	5	0	.688	419	328
San Francisco	9	7	0	.563	373	341
e-Seattle	6	10	0	.375	337	356
e-Eliminated from playoffs, x-clinched playoff spot, y-clinched division z-clinched home-field advantage						

